WORLD SOCCER

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The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

FEBRUARY 1975

IPSWICH TOWN

Back row: GEOFF HAMMOND, BRIAN TALBOT, MICK MILLS, PAUL COOPER, LAURIE SIVELL, ALLAN HUNTER, KEVIN BEATTIE, TREVOR WHYMARK.

Middle row: CYRIL LEA, ROGER OSBORNE, JOHN PEDDELTY, COLIN HARPER, COLIN VILJOEN, GEORGE BURLEY, BOBBY ROBSON (Manager)

Front row: IAN COLLARD, JOHN MILLER, MICK LAMBERT, DAVID JOHNSON, BRYAN HAMILTON, CLIVE WOODS, ERIC GATES.

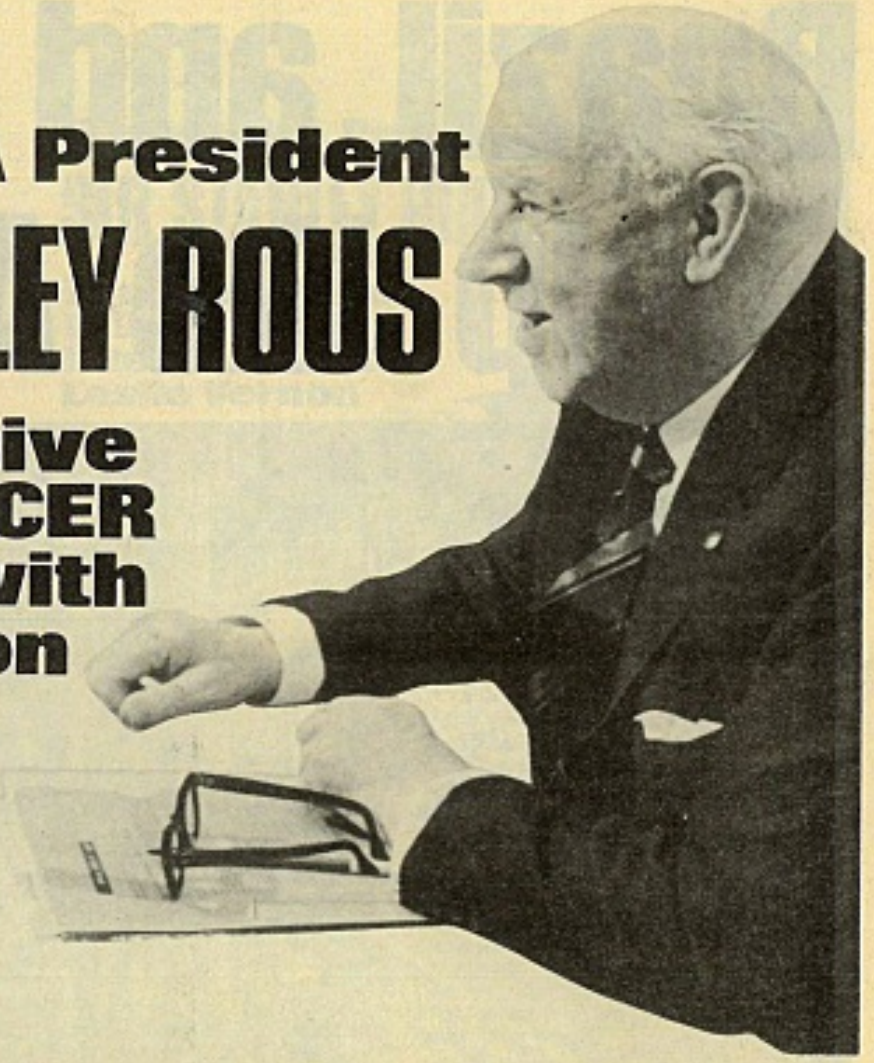
PETER SHILTON Stoke City

World SOCCER

Former FIFA President

SIR STANLEY ROUS

in an exclusive WORLD SOCCER interview with Leslie Vernon



THE "Grand Old Man" of international football lives in a modest West London flat. Surrounded by little material wealth, but by the rich memorabilia collected in a lifetime spent in service to the greatest game of all, Sir Stanley Rous is a contented man. "Recently, a member of the Royal Family said to me, that I must be the highest paid person in football. When I told him that the job of a FIFA President is an honorary one, and that I have never received a penny above my legitimate expenses, he was astonished," said Sir Stanley, when I visited him a few days ago to have a chat over a cup of coffee. Sir Stanley, a witty and amusing conversationalist, whose appearance and mental vigour belie his age, told me that he had thirty minutes to spare. In fact, I stayed for three hours, and immensely enjoyed every minute. The ex-FIFA President, of course, doesn't need an introduction, but just for the record, here is the "curriculum vitae" of a man who has done everything, and has acquired a Churchillian status within the game.

Player

Wide experience as an amateur player.

Referee

Officiated in matches at all levels. Gained respect as international referee in the 1930's. He re-wrote the Laws of the Game, introduced the diagonal system of refereeing which is now universally adopted.

Administrator Positions held in Sport

At all levels of sports administration from secretary to a college team, county association, until Secretary of the Football Association in England for 27 years.

● *Continued overleaf*

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Brazil and Urugua help the Argentin

Sir Stanley Rous (centre) pictured at the testimonial dinner for Sir Alf Ramsey (right). Harold Wilson presents the award to Sir Alf.

● *Continued from previous page*

The Football Association.

Secretary from 1934 until 1961 (elected as President of FIFA).

U.E.F.A.

Founder - member and vice - president responsible for the drafting of the statutes and formulating of the regulations for the highly successful Cup competitions.

Central Council of Physical Recreation of Great Britain

Founder-member and for 35 years Chairman of the Executive Committee of this national body which co-ordinates 200 organisations all concerned with the development of sport and recreation in Great Britain.

European Fairs' Cup (now UEFA Cup)

Founder-member and for twelve years President of this first European competition for club sides which was very popular and successful.

International Olympic Committee

He has been connected with the Olympic Games since 1936. In 1970 he was unanimously elected a member of the Tripartite Commission of the I.O.C.

International Board

A member of the Board since 1935.

F.I.F.A.

Member of the Amateur and Olympic Committee since 1946. Responsible for the overall organisation of the Olympic Football tournament in the Olympic Games, London 1948.

Member of the World Cup Organising Committee since 1950.

Member of the Referees' Committee since 1946 and Chairman from 1957 to 1966 when the position was relinquished voluntarily.

President of FIFA 1961, elected by a large majority at extraordinary Congress, unanimously re-elected in 1962 and 1966, and with only two dissentients in 1970.

DO YOU regret the loss of the FIFA job?"

"We had plans to reorganize the office accommodation and to increase the departments of administration at our H.Q. in Zurich. I would have liked to have seen this development completed. But I am not a bitter man — far from it! After all, I had a very long run".

"Perhaps your campaigning methods were wrong?"

"I haven't got the financial resources to run around on vote catching tours. I rather let my record to speak for itself. Don't forget, that I was a working President.

In every year, I clocked up many thousands of miles travelling on behalf

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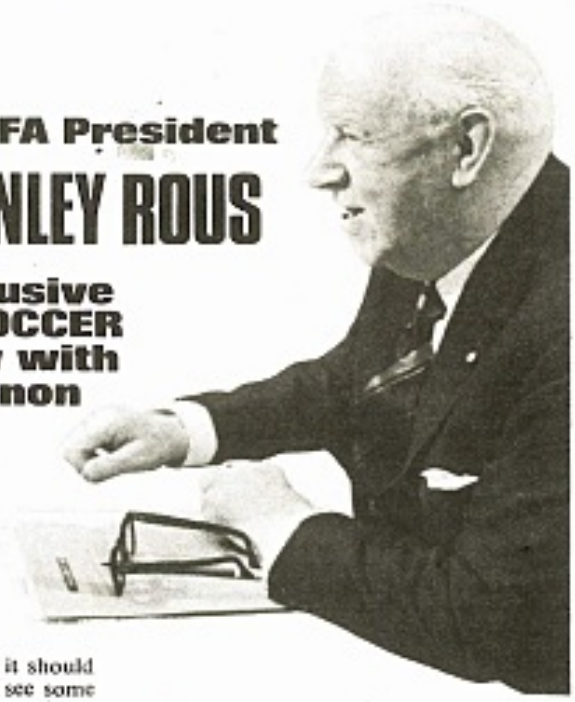
Former FIFA President SIR STANLEY ROUS

in an exclusive WORLD SOCCER interview with Leslie Vernon



of FIFA. I attended every meeting of the various sub-committees.

I used to stay at Mr. Havelange's house in Brazil, and he stayed with me here. But he is an ambitious man. There are suggestions that he regards the FIFA Presidency as a launching pad for political office. But I wouldn't like to comment on that."

"Did you handle the Chile v Russia affair correctly?"

"I am convinced that we made the right decision. You cannot monkey about with the rules of a competition. In any case, the Chileans played in the Soviet Union a few weeks *after* the coup.

Valentin Granatkin, the Russian member of the World Cup Organizing Committee, and the Chilean representative, Dr. Juan Goni, had worked out all the arrangements for the second-leg match.

Propaganda

Then the Russians suddenly became difficult, and expected us to accept their demands. Unfortunately, the Russians got maximum propaganda value out of the affair, while our side of the story wasn't properly publicised."

"Is there a weakness in the communications department of FIFA?"

"Without criticizing individuals, my answer is yes. Wilfred Gernard, for instance, has a flair for writing and publicity. FIFA should utilize people like him."

"What were your greatest achievements as President?"

"No need for false modesty. There are so many things of which I am proud, that it is impossible to choose. Such as the creation of different committees to deal with the various aspects of the game.

The introduction of sending missionary coaches all over the world. The developments in the medical side of football.

My work with referees, I would say that the most improved feature of the game in recent years has been the vastly better standards of refereeing.

During the last two World Cup Finals, the level has been extremely high, we have almost reached the ideal situation when the laws of the game are interpreted the same way everywhere".

"What is the greatest danger facing football today?"

"There are two. Firstly, the win-at-all-cost attitude of the clubs playing top level domestic or international football. This is a negation of what football is all about, and if you are obsessed with winning, you eventually lose your supporters.

Players must realize that they are public entertainers! Present day football is admittedly faster, but not as skilful as it should be. Still, I am not a pessimist, I see some good in every game.

Secondly, there are too many distractions to occupy the leisure time of young people. I am not talking about pop-music etc., but the attraction of other sports, such as athletics, swimming, riding etc. Generally speaking, a lot more people are actively participating in various sports than used to.

There is a long waiting list at every sailing and golf club in this country. This is obviously a praiseworthy trend, but football must have magnetic appeal for a great number of people to maintain its popularity."

"What is your opinion regarding the present state of the English game?"

"I think the weakest part of our structure is coaching. The courses at Lilleshall are too short. You cannot learn enough in a couple of weeks.

Not only about the basics of the game itself, but also about the laws of football, treatment of injuries, diet, man-management, etc. Even in Asia, we, the FIFA, had three months' courses, with jobs guaranteed for the successful candidates.

Lecturing

We had experts from other fields, mainly from the universities, lecturing. And a very stiff examination indeed. In W. Germany or Hungary, it takes the best part of two years to become a qualified coach.

As for the game itself, there is too much hurly-burly—not enough thought. And there is much too much shouting. When a player is in possession, all or most of his colleagues scream at him. No wonder that he gets confused. Best or Bobby Charlton didn't need to be told what to do, they just did the right thing instinctively."

"Perhaps the new 'Football Academy' will improve matters?"

"I am afraid this is an expensive pipe-dream. Ted Croker is doing his level best to raise the money, but in the present economic situation, it is an uphill task.

I, myself, am trying to interest several foreign associations in the scheme. But, of course, they would like to know what they are getting for their money. A few places at the coaching courses are not enough—we must give them more in return.

For instance, sponsored visits of our top clubs in the close season. Incidentally, I do not believe in too much commercial sponsorship. Government assistance without too many strings attached is much healthier.

And, of course, we must utilize the work of volunteers, enthusiasts on all levels. During the war, when I was F.A. Secretary, we raised £900,000 for the Red Cross by arranging darts competitions in pubs. We need these kind of inventive ideas and enthusiasm now!"

Satisfy

"Finally, Sir Stanley, I understand that the Argentinians were given an ultimatum by Neuberger that unless they satisfy FIFA that their preparations are in an advanced state by June of this year, the staging of the competition will be taken away from them?"

"I cannot comment on that. But it doesn't surprise me that Hermann Neuberger, chairman of the Organizing Committee, is becoming rather worried. I believe that both Uruguay and Brazil should help Argentina.

It would be geographically possible to play-off matches in Montevideo (Uruguay), Porto Allegre (Brazil) and in two Buenos Aires stadia. Failing that, I would be in favour of asking Spain to bring forward their application for '82, and act as hosts for the next World Cup instead".

As I was saying my goodbyes to Sir Stanley, it occurred to me that he really should be one of the highest paid men in football. Not in a FIFA post, but working for our own F.A., or if one dares to say it, for the Football League. He has the stature, the experience and the vision to revitalize our creaking league structure, to combat the greed of the players, the selfishness of club chairmen, and the ingrained thick-headedness of officialdom. He believes that "tradition must not be an obstacle to progress". A good enough motto for me to recommend him for the job! However, sadly, I do not think that he would accept it . . .

BRIAN CLO

Crosstalk with Ba

Barry: Brian, now that you're back in the Midlands are we going to see Brian Clough the manager again?

Brian: I don't think you've seen anything else apart from Brian Clough the manager. I'm not quite sure how you mean that Barry.

Barry: The manager we saw at Derby County.

Brian: The one who lived with the game, very very involved with it and all like that? Of course you are. I was Brian Clough the manager at Brighton except that the outside pressures on me were so great that I strayed a little bit from the narrow path and I certainly was at Leeds. I was more, I was concentrating more on football at Leeds than ever before in my life including Derby, I just didn't get long enough to prove it.

Barry: You said that you were not equiped to manage without Peter Taylor, it could be said that recent months have proved that to be so.

Brian: Perhaps did I qualify it by saying not equipped to manage to the best of my ability without Peter. Peter's a very near and dear friend of mine and also a very competent man in his own right. I believe I've got something to offer in management and the pair of us together were I thought a good team. We complemented each other on certain things and it's perfectly true: two heads are better than one, and I would have liked to have been working with Peter now and right throughout my life. It wasn't to be, no. Peter's staying at Brighton, he stayed at Brighton when I went to Leeds and we'll have to make a success of it the pair of us on our own until we can eventually sometime in 20 years hence get together again.

No Taylor

Barry: Can you manage at the highest level without Peter Taylor.

Brian: Well I hope so.

Barry: Do you have any doubt about it?

Brian: Never, never any doubt at all, no.

Barry: Was it a mistake to go to Brighton?

Brian: I don't think so. There were perhaps a few mistakes make while we were there but to go initially, if there was a mistake at all it was going to quickly, you know, so quickly after leaving Derby. Perhaps we should have sat back a little bit and taken stock and had a wee break out of the game because everything was in a turmoil at that particular time, there was a lot of things being said and a lot of unhappiness going on and a lot of emotion being shown and we just jumped straight out and wanted to get right away from it altogether and of course we finished up going hundreds of miles away to Brighton.

Barry: Did you fire that emotion?

Brian: I'm certain I contributed to it very much, yes.

Barry: In a right way and in a wrong way?

Brian: Well I don't know whether it's a right and a wrong way it was a human way as far as I was concerned. It came from the heart, it wasn't predetermined, it was something I felt at the time. And I've always shown far too much emotion in football in any case. I was too emotionally involved with players and that type of thing but of course they were very special players and I was delighted to have that relationship.

Barry: How much time did you really spend at Brighton?

Brian: In hours or days or what? I spent as much time perhaps as I spent anywhere else, I was living in Derby, I was having a house built which is now completed of course. I was perhaps staying away Sundays, Mondays and sometimes even Tuesdays but when I went down of course I was working Wednesdays, Thursdays, Friday's, Saturdays right through to midnight. So in hours it was just the same time as anywhere else. Perhaps it was condensed more into the days.

Barry: So you're saying you did enough to justify your position as manager?

Brian: The people I was working with or for thought so and . . . obviously, they were quite happy with the situation and very sorry to see me leave.

Barry: For all the offers that Leeds United made you did you not lose face by leaving Brighton?

Brian: I lost face in the sense that people expected me to be completely and utterly loyal having gone to Brighton, yes, in that respect, certainly lost a bit of face, but I couldn't quite resist the temptation or the challenge or the desire to get back into the top line at football and I wanted a crack at the European Cup. But obviously to the supporters of Brighton, despite the facts which I'm sure they understood the reasons why I left, they weren't too happy about it.

Barry: When you went to Leeds, how did you expect to succeed when you told the players to forget all about Don Revie?

Brian: You're putting words in my mouth, I didn't tell them to forget all about Don Revie at all, and I expected to succeed because I was a good manager and they were good players.

Barry: Did you not tell them to forget the past?

Brian: I might have said it in conversation many many times when I was saying you know you've got to forget last season, you won the championship etc, etc, now we've got to get on and do something else. I said words that Revie hadn't said many many years on the trot at Leeds because you always have to forget the season that's behind you.

Complex

Barry: Come on Brian, it was a bit harder than that.

Brian: I don't think it was a bit harder than that at all.

Barry: Well the people up there will tell you it was a bit harder.

Brian: Well fine, get the people on with me, and we'll discuss it.

Barry: Do you think you have a complex about Don Revie?

Brian: No at all no, I envy him in certain respects and I feel that he should be showing a lead now being in charge of the England side for everything that's good in the game.

Barry: What does that mean, the emphasis?

Brian: It means that Revie and the football, the England team should mirror everything that's good in the game. We should just watch, look and aim for that particular standard.

Barry: Looking back on the Leeds job do you think you tried to build Rome in a day?

Brian: Possibly, possibly, I always want to do things as quickly as I can, I signed a few players which I stand by, so we've given millions watching your programme a lot of pleasure in the last few weeks. I think things have to be done quickly if the opportunity is there to do them, I don't see any reason you know by dragging your feet if you can do it straight away.

Barry: There are now people who say that you don't know anything about this game.

Brian: Ah . . . well I'll discuss that with the people who said that any time, any where. I think that's rather a rude question actually.

Barry: Do you think you've not given them any justification for that feeling?

Brian: I think they must be idiots.

Barry: Do you understand that for all the euphoria that is attached to every appointment that you are given there are certain people that suffer, I'm thinking of the McGoverns, the O'Hares players at Brighton, players indeed that joined Brighton just before you left.

Brian: I don't think the players suffer in any respect at all. If you specifically mention McGovern and John O'Hare think that's proved by the fact that they would go anywhere I asked them to go, I don't know. I don't think any player, I don't recall any transfer requests ever on

UGH
rry Davies

Brian Clough was interviewed by Barry Davies for the B.B.C. TV's Football Focus in Grandstand. This is the transcript of the conversation between the two and shows clearly that Clough will answer questions directly. It should also be added that the interviewer and interviewee went off to the pub happily together afterwards!

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my desk from players, never, ever, on my desk including the Leeds lot so it's a fair point to prove. I don't get many people wanting to leave the clubs I've taken over.

Barry: But does it not worry you that they were caught up in something they couldn't control.

Brian: No not at all because they, they got a bit of it, you know, the rough with the smooth it helps on occasions, it harms on other occasions but they don't mind, they're sensible, mature men, they know what the game is about, they know we have to sell our game of football and if the particular clubs been sold then they will benefit also. The lads I'm with now, if Forest get 2 or 3 thousand more spectators in the ground, we sell more season tickets they will benefit and they know this so they don't mind any publicity at all in that respect.

Barry: Would you understand people who might be slightly disillusioned about you?

Brian: I would understand people who are disillusioned about football but you didn't ask that. I would understand perhaps Mike Bamber, he's the only one that's entitled to be disillusioned about me.

Barry: Why?

Brian: Because I broke my contract with him and I thought the conversation was settled and it wasn't settled. He took me to Brighton with great faith, I had great faith in him and I didn't finish the job he asked me to do. But there's nobody else disillusioned with me as far as I am aware.

Barry: Do you regret—going back to Brighton—do you regret you didn't stick to it having made up your lot and gone to the third division, that you didn't prove yourself a good manager really by taking them out of the third?

Brian: No not at all, I couldn't, I couldn't have made a wrong decision going to Leeds, I think I made the right decision. I just wasn't totally right about the people I went to work for.

Barry: You've made no secret about your socialist beliefs which includes freedom of speech.

Brian: Yes, I believe in it utterly and completely, it's good for people, it's good for life, it's good for democracy.

Barry: So if you believe in freedom of speech why do you prevent your players talking to the press?

Brian: I don't prevent my players talking to the press at all.

Barry: Did you not do so while you were at Brighton?

Brian: One or two of them yes, one or two of them. The ones that couldn't be, trusted to even hold a reasonable intelligent conversation.

Barry: You're putting yourself in the position of judging that?

Brian: Of course I can judge every aspect, that is my job to judge, in every aspect of players if I'm manager.

Barry: How much do you believe the image the press has created of you?

Brian: I don't, I'm not quite aware of this image you're talking about.

Barry: How much do you believe of the image the media have created of you?

Brian: I'm not quite sure what the image is, Barry, I believe obviously that publicity is essential for football and the media provide the publicity and I have people wanting to come and talk to me, i.e. you, etc, etc.

● *Continued on page 47*

OFFSIDE . . . G

BAD? ASK MR

FOOTBALL has its little ironies. When recently in Berne, and visiting the new headquarters of UEFA, that lively if permissive body, I acquired a copy of their magazine. In it was reproduced a statement by Jimmy Bloomfield, the amiable and able young Leicester City manager, deploring the existence of the offside law. It compressed football into a small band of the field, he complained, and he insisted that play would be so much freer and more attractive without it.

The scene changes. A week later I am at Loftus Road on Boxing Day, watching Phil Parkes' massive clearances from the Queens Park Rangers penalty box sail into the wind and bounce hugely over the dumbfounded Leicester defence. One bounced all the way over poor Carl Jayes, the young Leicester City reserve goalkeeper, and into the net. Leicester are saved . . . because a couple of Rangers players are standing in offside positions.

It happens again; another great, swirling punt clears the heads of the Leicester defence. This time Westwood, the Queens Park Rangers substitute, follows up and heads the ball in for his team's fourth goal.

Afterwards, a disappointed but still amenable Bloomfield comes to the Press room. Did any defender get his head to the ball before Westwood ran on to it? I ask. No, says Bloomfield, and adds with annoyance that in any case, all the Rangers forwards should have been played offside . . .

Aspects

I shall not dwell too long or too unkindly on these inconsistencies. There were, however, other intriguing aspects of those goals, and that game, which are worth developing.

In the first place, there was reason to believe that the decision of the referee in disallowing the "goal" by Phil Parkes for offside was wrong. Certainly the Rangers players who he penalised were offside; but were they interfering with the play or seeking to gain an advantage?

I cannot see that they could conceivably have been interfering with the play, given that they were some forty odd yards from the opposing goal. Were they seeking to gain an advantage? Goodness, it seems to be that one has to be a mind reader to decide upon so elusive and subjective a question.

This aspect of the law, indeed, takes on an almost metaphysical aspect, for who can know what sin lies in a footballer's heart, what guilty desire lurks in his mind? To be Freudian about it, how can we be sure, even when he is convinced of his own innocence, that he did not *subconsciously* seek to gain an advantage?

If the law says this, as Dickens might have had it, then the law is an ass. Moreover, it is an immense incubus upon a referee, whose many attributes should not be required to include mind reading.

I do not think Bloomfield, Dougan and the rest are remotely right in wanting to abolish a law which has a basis both in common sense and ethics. After all, we know what happened when the law was first modified in 1925, reducing the number of players required to put a man onside from three to two. Almost at once, Arsenal responded with the stopper centre-half and the third back game, so that football became more defensive than ever; a process which has continued ever since.

OOD OR BLOOMFIELD!

Looking at soccer with

BRIAN GLANVILLE

Indeed, the excesses of *catenaccio*, 4-4-2 and the rest are such as to make the methods of those old Arsenal teams seem positively slap-happy.

Rob a team of a defensive resort as important as offside, and it will become more cautious than ever. Bloomfield and the rest should not delude themselves that the end of offside, or even the adoption of the halfway house of confining it to eighteen yards in either half, would be a panacea, a herald of open, uninhibited football. If anything, teams would need more defenders, rather than fewer.

Fitness

From the general to the particular. I felt sorry for poor Carl Jayes; indeed, it was not the first time I had felt sorry for him. The first was a couple of years ago at Filbert Street, when Peter Shilton failed a fitness test, obliging Jayes to make his debut in a Cup tie against Orient.

It was not a good game for him; he made the inevitable mistakes caused by inexperience, and Orient won the game 2-0. Jayes was, it seems, somewhat traumatised by the experience; he disappeared from first team football till the present season, becoming no better than third choice. But he seems accident prone; an unquestionably talented yet undoubtedly unlucky player.

This was abundantly shown both by the circumstances of his debut, and in the Rangers game. Had it not been for the freakishly powerful wind, he would not have been thus embarrassed, in the second half. As for the second Rangers goal against him, it was a bitterly ironic affair.

Corner

Jayes had made two magnificent saves, stopping a point blank shot at the right hand post, then another, as Westwood met the ball almost on the by-line. It went for a corner. Dave Thomas took the corner. The corner, a high inswinger, flew over Jayes' head and into the net. You can't, as they say, win them all, but I imagine that the hapless, gifted Jayes would settle at the moment for winning half of them.

Meanwhile, his formidable predecessor, Peter Shilton, has gone to Stoke City; though I am a little uncertain why. I know Shilton well, admire him greatly as a goalkeeper, like him greatly as a pleasant, modest, humorous young man. I also like and admire Stoke City as a club. Yet it seems to me that both may have made a mistake; Stoke in having so mortgaged their financial future to buy him, Shilton by moving to a club where he will scarcely be better off, in terms of perquisites and peripheral earnings, than he would have been at Leicester.

Success

One knows that for some time past, he has had the urge to move, and to "better" himself. It was understandable. Though Leicester born and bred, and connected with the club since the age of 11 (indeed, perhaps precisely for that reason) his success with England has made him long for a wider stage.

He would have liked to play for Leeds United—who certainly, when Brian Clough was briefly there—would have liked him to play for them, or perhaps for one of the London clubs. Chelsea, it seemed to me, at the very time he moved, might have been an ideal team for him, with Peter Bonetti approaching the end of his career, and no major successor in sight.

But Chelsea hasn't the money, and Arsenal, who had certainly been interested in him too, were by then well satisfied with Jimmy Rimmer, a surprisingly cheap buy from Manchester United.

So both Stoke and Shilton decided to gamble, Stoke to pay an immense £325,000 fee which was estimated to entail £60,000 in interest, Shilton to settle for a team which had never won a major honour but might, unjust might, were he to join them and reinforce them.

At a time when players of high individual skill are few and far between in the English first division, WORLD SOCCER welcomes the comeback of Leeds United winger Eddie Gray. It was feared that Gray's career would end last year because of injury. He has recovered sufficiently to play again, much to the delight of the Elland Road patrons.

Should they fail to do so, then it would be back to square one; he would merely become, once more, the distinguished goalkeeper of a middle of the table provincial club. *Wanderlust* rather than calculation seemed to me to be at the bottom of it, though here I must declare an interest.

I am, about football, still something of a romantic, liking to see the local boy who makes good with a local team and, provided it be of sufficient stature, remaining with it.

Whether Shilton will now make enough extra money with Stoke to make such considerations mere, irrelevant sentimentality remains to be seen. I wish Stoke well, I wish Shilton well, but I am doubtful.

WORLD SOCCER looks at a dilemma fa

WILL COLONIES CLOSE THE DOOR?

BENFICA are facing the gravest crisis in their 70-year history. And the cause is related to that thorny old question of politics and sport.

The club was founded in 1904 by one Cosme Damiao, but the fact that he learned his football from the British didn't prevent him insisting that *his* club should only use players who are Portuguese or *from the Portuguese colonies and possessions.*

So, now that the new government seems in haste to grant independence to the African territories of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, it is not hard to understand why many influential fans fear that the whole future of the club is in jeopardy.

A quick look back at the Africans who have starred for Benfica and Portugal in the past 15 years makes it quite clear exactly how important the colonies have proved.

Costa Pereira was one of the world's top goalkeepers (albeit a little erratic); Mario Coluna one of post-war soccer's best midfield generals; Jose Aguas, once club captain, one of the sharpest of centre-forwards; Joaquim Santana an outstanding inside forward; and Silva Eusebio of course needs no qualification.

Even now Benfica's best strikers are from Africa—Jordao and Nene—and they have just taken on two more young Angolans, Jose Pedro and Cavungi, of whom great things are expected.

Foreign

The dilemma facing Benfica was summed up by right back Malta da Silva: "This is the most serious of all the club's problems. Benfica have based absolutely everything on players from Angola, Mozambique, Guinea and even the island of Santo Tome. If the club want to maintain their present position they have no option: they must accept that they will have to buy foreign players.

"For myself, when I have the chance, I will take up Angolan citizenship."

Club boss Fernando Neves has no doubt either that the next year or two could see the club split down the middle between the traditionalists who insist that Benfica maintain the Portuguese-only policy, and the progressives who think that the sooner such old customs are cast aside the better.

The traditionalists would seem to hold sway at the moment. Two years ago, when the Portuguese government (old variety) signed a dual nationality agreement with Brazil, it was nevertheless decided that Benfica should refuse to take advantage by signing Brazilians, even though they now have virtually all the legal rights of Portuguese citizens.

Many other famous Portuguese internationals have been Africans—defenders Hilario and Vicente and forwards Peyroteo, Matateu, Yauca and Jacinto Joao.

So Portuguese soccer could be in for a lean time at international level too, for once Angola and Mozambique achieve full independence FIFA will have no option but to make sure that Portugal field no more new Africans in their national team.

Many observers were curious about the attitude of the great Eusebio, who comes from Lourenco Marques, Mozambique of course. He's 32 now, and playing in midfield in fits and starts without a great deal of fire, but his name still commands plenty of respect.

He has never had any doubts.

Decision

"When my career as a player ends I will return to Mozambique. This is nothing new, but the decision I took when I first joined Benfica in 1961. It has nothing to do with the political developments. I have no political preferences, but I do want to see Mozambique independent.

"If I were ever wanted to help organise soccer there I think I could do a useful job. But I would never consider becoming a politician—I could only help out in something I enjoy and know all about: soccer."

And if the future does not look particularly rosy, the present situation at Benfica is not all sweetness and light either.

Milorad Pavic, the Yugoslav who took over as trainer during the summer, has been upsetting a lot of people.

For ten years Benfica had played with a four-in-line defence, using the offside trap, after winning two Champions' Cups under the great Bela Guttman with a version of WM.

Pavic, however, formerly in charge a Athletic Bilbao and Standard Liege, changed all that, introducing a sweeper. But judging by the team's performance in a 4-2 defeat by the French national team recently, Pavic's new ideas are meeting with little success.

In that game only the efforts up front of Eusebio and Jordao and the comparative ineptness of the French forwards kept the score to reasonable proportions.

"Why did Pavic change things?" fans are asking. "The defence in line was good enough for Jimmy Hagan and last season — under Hagan's erstwhile deputy, Fernando Cabrita—the defence conceded only 21 goals in 30 games."

Pavic, whose plans for the attack were upset by the continuing absence through injury of Artur Jorge, even threw centre back Humberto into the forward line for several matches, but the conclusion, sadly and inevitably, must be that in eight short years not only the fabric of Benfica's football, but that of Portugal's as a whole, is falling apart.

Celebrated

It was only that long ago that Portugal were one of the most celebrated soccer nations in the world. They had, after all, just finished third in the World Cup and Benfica and Sporting were challenging for the top club prizes.

But now what do we find? That an international between England and Portugal—in April—can draw only 20,000 fans; and that Benfica are scrambling along in the Cup-winners' Cup. And even then, they needed to cling to the away goals rule to struggle into the quarter finals after being held 1-1 on aggregate by Carl Zeiss Jena.

At that they were lucky to survive in Lisbon, for the East Germans looked the more threatening in breakaways. That was enough to provoke the nervy Portuguese into arguing among themselves and though centre forward Victor Batista way out of touch lately, headed against a post, there was little else for the fans to cheer.

Having drawn 1-1 away (goal by Nene to one by Vogel) and 0-0 in the Estadio da Luz, Benfica go on.

Eusebio was there too, of course, flitting briefly into the game. But he has well over 300 league goals and more than 50 caps behind him and it's no good expecting him to inspire some sort of revival in spirit.

And, with the political situation being what it is, it's hard to see how anything short of an internal revolution can make Benfica once again into a power strong enough to repeat the glory-hunting days of 1961-8.

cing Benfica and the future of Eusebio...

Eusebio, pictured when he was captain of Portugal.

Youth policy for Portugal is right one

...answering questions in a special interview

Question: From a personal point of view, what do you think is the most frustrating thing in Portuguese football?

Answer: Purely and simply the lack of real competition. Some countries, notably England and West Germany have several fine First Division sides, and in the case of England at least ten.

But in Portugal during recent years, the race for the League Championship has always been between only two clubs, namely Benfica and Sporting Lisbon. In my opinion this has stunted the development of our football at international level.

Like Real Madrid, Benfica have been accused of living on their reputation. Do you agree?

I certainly don't agree. It is true that nowadays my club is not the European force it used to be. But like Manchester United for example, our name is so well-known that we are bound to remain one of Europe's leading crowd-pullers.

To say we consciously use old glories to line our pockets is a nonsense. After all, we cannot help it if people abroad still regard us as one of soccer's number one attractions.

At the veteran age of 32, you are still among the footballing elite. Do you find it difficult to cope with your immense world-wide reputation?

Well, after so many years being labelled by the world's sporting press as the "European Pele", I find no problem whatsoever in dealing with such a minor thing as reputation.

After all, the word reputation is really so unimportant. Throughout my career I have tried at all times to adopt a sensible attitude.

My philosophy has always been that if you want to keep the correct mental balance in the first-class game you've got to disregard such things as reputation, and simply continue to do your best where it matters most—on the football field!

Portugal benefits a great deal from the almost endless source of fine ball-players from Mozambique and Angola . . .

As a Mozambique-born player myself I know more than most people how much Portugal relies upon both Angola and Mozambique for its stream of new talent.

But now that both colonies are to be made independent, Portugal could well struggle to retain its place among the leading countries of Europe.

During recent months we have seen Portugal totally committed to a policy of youth when selecting its national side. Are you convinced that this is the right thing to do?

Of course. Since 1966 when we finished third in the World Cup, our soccer at international level has waned alarmingly. One of the main reasons for our decline was that we tended to live in the past and select players who were far too old.

I don't mean to sound brutal, but as everyone in the game knows you've got to think of the future all the time. This is exactly what Portugal is now doing, and although we probably won't see any noticeable change right away, it shouldn't be long before we see the fruits of the young Portuguese players' labours.

About a year ago pressmen were convinced that Benfica had found your successor in 19-year-old Angola-born Jose Pedro. Do you feel that the tag "Eusebio's successor" could ruin a young player's chances of real success?

Obviously by comparing one player to another is not the ideal grooming for any young player. But if you are to succeed in the world game you must learn to live with every pressure, not only those which exist on the field of play, but also the external pressures.

If a player can't cope with the latter then the best thing for him to do is to pack the whole thing in.

You have achieved nearly everything there is to achieve in football, so many would say that there is not much point in your carrying on. What keeps you in the game?

I fully appreciate that by anybody's standards my career has been a successful one. So If I were to give up now I could with justification look upon my years in the game with satisfaction.

Yet by the same token, if I did retire I would not be fulfilling my duty as a true professional. A professional footballer should never revel in past glories, irrespective of how great they might have been.

His main job is to do the best he can in his next match for his club. And this is exactly what I try to do.

European news review—BELGIUM... PORTUGAL... HOLLAND...

FEYENOO ROMP AH

FEYENOORD touched their best form of the season in Holland in beating Twente 4-0 to go two points ahead of PSV Eindhoven held 1-1 at FC Den Haag, though the Philips club have a game in hand.

PSV remain unbeaten but have now dropped four points. Their troubles began oddly enough against Ajax who themselves have slumped to third place with only 22 points from 15 games.

Ajax shocked PSV by taking the lead after two minutes by their top scorer Ruud Geels and though the home side equalised they did not look too convincing.

Their leading marksman, Willy Van der Kuylen, has not scored for weeks and remains on 17 goals, now being pressed by the Feyenoord pair Willy Kreuz and Theo De Jong who have 13 and 12 respectively. Geels has 11 goals.

To be fair, Ajax have been hard hit by injuries. In one game they were without Suurbier (suspended), Krol, Schrijvers, Gerrie Muhren, Brokamp, Hulshoff (all injured). Now they have swopped Muhren for Notten of Twente.

This means that Ajax still have Gerrie's younger brother Arnold Muhren in midfield, alongside newcomer Rene Notten.

Feyenoord hit the unfortunate newcomers to the First Division Wageningen in an 8-2 encounter, though there are three clubs beneath them at present in FC Amsterdam, NAC Breda and Haarlem who have won only one match. But Wageningen are looking particularly leaky at the back having also lost 7-1 to Utrecht recently.

There was a surprise, too, for Ajax in the Dutch Cup when they were put out by Second Division Heracles after extra time. Ajax took the lead, Heracles equalised and the sequence was repeated to end at 2-2 with normal time signalled.

In extra time Willy Brokamp hit the post and bar for Ajax but in the last five minutes the Heracles team added two more sensational goals.

Their trainer is Ronnie Dellow who has been coaching in Holland for over a quarter of a century now and was formerly associated as a player with Manchester City.

Cluster

RWD MOLENBEEK have a five point lead at the top of the Belgian First Division followed by Anderlecht on 26 points. Then come a cluster of clubs with Antwerp a point behind and three others Beerschot, Standard Liege and FC Bruges on 24.

RWD's top scorer Jacques Teugels hit three of the goals in the 4-1 win at Lierse to take his total to 13, one behind Simoen of Ostende the leader.

Another useful individual performance came in the Cup when Philippe Garot hit three of Standard's goals in their 5-1 win over CS Bruges. For once ace marksman Josip Bukal was not the main feature for Standard.

Anderlecht's Hungarian centre forward Attila Ladinski, who was badly injured in a car crash at the end of last season and was though perhaps unlikely to play for some time, has returned to senior duty.

Another ex-Anderlecht player, Wilfried Puis, is in less happy circumstances at present however. After writing an article saying that the 1970 World Cup side had taken an indiscriminate number of pills before the matches, the Belgium F.A. is taking legal action—and so is his old club Anderlecht. Puis a left winger now plays for Lokeren.

Lokeren were also in the news in a game against Beerschot. This kicked off early because the Lokeren trainer Alois De Rycker had complained about the standard of Beerschot's floodlights. But De Rycker was the sacked trainer of Beerschot last season . . . Beerschot won 2-0.

In the Second Division there is big

Italian games

LONDON had its first long up-to-the-minute look at Italian League soccer last month—and the verdict was three hearty cheer for the English game (writes PAUL COLLINS).

About 400 insomniacs, paying up to £3 a seat, surveyed the unacceptable face of Latin football in a recording of the Naples-Torino First Division tussle at the Leicester Square Odeon theatre.

Repeated squabbles with the referee, which resulted in two bookings and one player receiving his marching orders, several nasty clashes, and, above all, a plethora of goalmouth impotence.

The loud groans and catcalls from off-duty Italian restaurant waiters showed that, despite England's failure at international level, the thrills and spills of West Ham, Queen's Park Rangers and Tottenham, among many, are joys to behold, compared with the negative, defence-dominated menu back home.

Naples won 1-0, but their only goal, from Massa, came in the second half, when Torino were reduced to 10 men, after defender Santime had been sent off for dissent.

The screening of the match was the second in a provisional sequence of four late-night Sunday shows at the Odeon for devotees of the Italian football scene.

At present, film of matches played earlier in the day are flown to London. "Live" transmissions are planned later, given sufficient demand.

The scheduled curtain-raiser, a top-of-the-table battle between Juventus, the current League leaders, and Lazio, the reigning champions, was blacked out, because of a strike by Italian television technicians.

Instead, the 600 fans who came from as far as Brighton and Worthing had to be content with a 10-day-old game of devalued importance.

Keith Cavele, spokesman for the London film distributors, Topaz Films, who link up with Sport Diffusion in Rome from their West End Offices at Berkeley Square, said:

After the first night hitch, it is not surprising that fewer fans have turned up this time. Obviously, they were disappointed.

"But we feel that there is a good deal of interest, especially amidst the large Italian population in the capital. The word should soon spread.

"In the United States, four Italian matches are beamed 'live' by satelite every week, and these have proven a big success."

For the gloomy critics of the decline in English soccer, the Naples-Torino spectacle offered clear evidence that there is still a long way to go before Italy's murky depths are plummeted.

Manchester United and Newcastle may have had their pitch invasions, and fits of petulance are to be seen at most grounds in this country.

European news review—ITALY...GREECE...

RD EAD

trouble for one-time great Union St. Gilloise, now known as Royale Union. The club's President Ghislain Bayet is a bright young man in his late 20s and wants the club to adopt a more professional attitude.

Ex-Anderlecht full-back Georges Heylens who is the coach of this bottom club says: "The world was not made in a day." To world was not made in a day." To which Bayet replied: "No, but God had all eternity for that—we only have 17 matches."

Eventful

JUVENTUS who are still top of the Italian League have had an eventful time of late. Sensationally they won 6-2 away to previously unbeaten Napoli in a game of some incident.

The match was abandoned 90 seconds from the end when a missile from the crowd hit a linesman. But all it produced was a three match home ban for Napoli and a fine of £350.

Next week it was the turn of Juventus to be in some bother. At home to bottom of the table Cartiari they were struggling midway through the second half without a score on the board when Dino Zoff pulled off a penalty save to keep them in the game and then on the stroke of full time Franco Causio scored the winner for them.

But then their luck ran out. At Lazio in front of a 75,000 crowd they lost 1-0 to an own goal with the victors closing the gap at the top to a single point.

The year 1974 ended unhappily for the national team as well. Their match in Genoa against Bulgaria produced the now classic goalless draw. The Bulgarians who are similarly in the toils at present were clearly not prepared to be trodden on again and the game was liberally marked with fouls. Two Bulgarians were carried off and an Italian, Roberto Boninsegna was booked.

The following day a side selected from the Italian Second Division met a Scottish Second Division select team, but the pitch was in a dreadful state and the game had to be abandoned in the second half. Naturally there was no score at the time . . .

Speculation is now rife that 70-year-old Fulvio Bernardini who succeeded Ferruccio Valcareggi (58) as trainer after the World Cup demise, will not see 1975 out as the national coach.

But the problem is that the Italian authorities might have problems finding anyone older than Bernardini who can take over!

Even so attendances in Italian League games look likely to show yet another increase on the previous season. In 1973-74 all four top divisions showed an increase on the 1972-73 season—over half a million rise in the First Division alone.

OLYMPIAKOS Piraeus, who were Europe's only 100% League team, crashed in their ninth game on the rain soaked pitch of PAOK in Salonika. A crowd of 40,000 braved the elements to watch them lose 2-0 and since then nothing has gone right for the current champions of Greece.

Olympiakos were then held 1-1 at home by Atromitos and despite forcing a 0-0 draw away to AEK Athens who had taken the lead from them, both teams found themselves overtaken by Ethnikos themselves undefeated.

Ethnikos had a 2-1 win over Panathinaikos which firmly established them on top and they are looking quite good enough to challenge for the title. Their trainer is Vic Buckingham and another Englishman, Les Shannon has just left PAOK after a row.

Shannon who resigned at the end of last season but was persuaded to stay on, finally handed in his notice because of continual interference by the directors.

On returning to England he was reported as saying that the Greeks could teach English football something in the method in which they allow their youngsters to develop natural ball skills without the pressures of winning thrust on them by the type of advanced coaching and organised football in our own schools system.

The Green national team beat Bulgaria 2-1 in the European Championship match and much more convincingly than the score suggested. They were two up by half time and Bulgaria only reduced the deficit two minutes from the end.

Greece have four points from three matches and head Group Eight. West Germany have played only one match in this group of course.

in London

But, neither Old Trafford nor St. James's Park—or, for that matter, any other stadium—needs rows of police on benches, with their backs to the action, watching tensely for the familiar eruption of hot-tempered violence by a crowd separated from the pitch by fencing, a running track and moats behind the goals.

Reckless

Body checks and wild, reckless tackles were not uncommon—one flailing lunge almost amputated the legs of a Naples forward—and scuffles between players extended to two Torino defenders wrestling over who was to take a free-kick.

The theatrical gestures of players hurt in seemingly innocuous challenges brought hoots of derision from the unsympathetic exiles in the audience.

Contrasted with the noisy firecrackers and klaxons which saluted Naples' superiority, the half-empty cinema was bathed in sleepy silence.

Spasmodic applause for a rare touch of inventiveness, flanked against the general tide of mediocrity, was the most that could be mustered for the whole 90 minutes.

The only onlooker who could raise real enthusiasm for the lop-sided encounter cried out: "Napoli! Napoli! at the top of his voice, once or twice.

Then, someone in a nearby seat, presumably a disgruntled Torino supporter, riposted: "Shut up, you . . ."—the last expletive word muttered with clenched teeth.

Fortunately inaudible, too. After all, when in Rome, fists and police batons may fly. But, even at a cinema where the feature now happens to be a James Bond movie, fighting in the aisles is taking things just a little too far.

Unbeaten

THE sixteenth match in Portugal was unlucky for previously unbeaten Porto who lost 2-1 away to CUF Barreiro and now have only a point lead over second place Benfica.

Third are Guimaraes who have overcome a series of defeats including losing 5-2 at Faro to Farense and by three clear goals away to Boavista.

But watch Sporting Lisbon now. Their 7-0 win over Olhanense produced reports of "total football" from them and five-goal Hector Yazalde has already served notice that he does not intend giving up the title of Europe's top marksman that easily.

Yazalde now has 17 goals with the Guimaraes pair Jeremias and Tito on 11 each as his nearest challengers.

The famous Benfica—Sporting clash attracted a 60,000 crowd and was watched direct by satellite live by the Brazilian TV public. It ended in a 1-1 draw.

It proved an interesting return for Fernando Riera the Chilean who is now at the helm of Sporting. Riera had two separate spells in charge of Benfica and led them to European successes.

Even so Benfica continue to look the best defensive team in the league with only seven goals conceded in their League games and cannot be written off this early in the season.

Keir Radnedge reviews the Spanish scene

BILBAO END REAL'S LONG LEAGUE RUN

ONE goal was enough for Athletic Bilbao, threatened by relegation, to end Real Madrid's season-long unbeaten record on the last Sunday of the old year and send them into 1975 in a distinctly happier state of mind.

Last year was not a good one for Bilbao. they finished fifth last season but then lost coach Milorad Pavic to Benfica and made a very poor start to the present campaign. Now, maybe, the tide is turning.

One man who thinks so is 31-year-old Jose Angel Iribar, who equalled Ricardo Zamora's record of 46 caps when he helped Spain beat Scotland 2-1 at Hampden in the European Championship.

Iribar, born in Zarauz, played for the local team and then Basconia before joining Bilbao in 1962, ousting veteran Carmelo Sedrun and making his international debut against Eire in the European Championship on March 11, 1964. Spain won 5-1—yet Iribar has great difficulty recalling not just the date, but even the opponents!

Injuries

He has held his place ever since—allowing for the occasional injuries and odd challenges from Antonio Betancort, Salvador Sadurni and Miguel Reina—to establish himself as a worthy successor to Zamora, to say nothing of Antonio Ramullets (35 caps) or Ignacio Eizaguirre (18). And that is to ignore other fine goalkeepers, such as Juanito Alonso, Jose Vicente, Antonio Araquistain and Pepin.

Zamora, who made his international debut at 18 in a 1-0 win over Denmark in the 1920 Olympics, played his last game when Spain lost 2-1 to Germany in February, 1936, and was praised as "the greatest goalkeeper of all time," by Iribar—who hadn't been born when Zamora retired!

Typical modesty from Iribar, who added: "Zamora was phenomenal. Me?—I just try to do my job."

A little unappreciated perhaps, for you may recall that when the Spanish team returned from Glasgow they found no ecstatic fans, no reception party, no scenes of adulation. Just a £1,600 victory bonus to console both them and manager Ladislav Kubala who, it seems, has been doing some groundwork for the time Spain come an eventual cropper. Bilbao are said to be ready to sign him on.

Despite Kubala having kept pretty secretive about his team for Hampden, there had never been any doubt about Iribar playing, particularly since his established deputy, Malaga's Juan Antonio Deusto, went down with pneumonia on the eve of the trip. Kubala had to call in Real Madrid's Miguel Angel Gonzalez to cover—a remarkable turnaround for the 27-year-old who has been loaned to so many clubs that he has been virtually living his football career out of a suitcase.

Miguel Angel was Real's third choice during the last league campaign, but was pressed into action for the Cup competition when both Mariano Garcia Remon ("The Odessa Cat") and Andres Junquera went down injured. Miguel Angel did so well that he now holds the position on merit and Kubala's beckoning finger has done wonders for his confidence.

Unlucky

Another new Madrid player, full back Jose Antonio Camacho, aged 19, was also among the reserves at Hampden and he too owes his chance to injury. The unlucky man here is Francisco Javier Uria, the international full back Madrid signed from Real Sociedad de San Sebastian during the summer but who had to miss the season's start because of knee trouble.

In fact, Spain have a crop of promising youngsters—another is Barcelona's 23-year-old Miguel Bernardo Migueli, who hails from the North African Spanish enclave of Ceuta—home also of Real Madrid's Pirri.

Migueli, previously with Cadiz, had only played a handful of games for CFB after completing his national service when Kubala called him in to face Scotland and he justified himself fully—as did 28-year-old Carlos Rexach, the Barcelona winger who was as surprised as anyone to find himself Spain's new captain.

One Barsa player not so happy with life, however, is goalkeeper Pedro Valentin Mora, who rejoined them in 1973 after loans to Oviedo and Elche. His worst match to date came in Sarria, before 50,000 (paying £65,000) for the big local derby.

The game virtually marked the end of Barcelona's opulent 75th anniversary celebrations but the only celebrating was done this time by Espanol who won 5-2 (Manolin Cuesta 2, Amiano 2, Maranon; Migueli, Clares). A sweet return to duty for Mora's opposite number, Bertomeu, who had been dropped after letting in five against Madrid and who was recalled because of an injury to former-Madrid keeper, Jose Luis Borja.

Anniversary

"I know players suffer from nerves, but we can't let them take over like that again," Rumbled Rinus Michels afterwards.

Mora, who had a dreadful time, was one of the men ousted—along with Torres and Rife—for the following Sunday's home game against Celta. CFB won 4-0 in a game which had Brazil's Mario Marinho make a controversial debut — he scored a goal and then saw Celta's Juan sent off for kicking him after only 38 minutes by the expulsions king, Antonio Rigo.

"I don't think I kicked Marinho," said Juan afterwards. "But if I did, it was only accidental . . ."

Celta had earlier been involved in an exercise which demonstrates only too clearly the continuing distaste of the clubs for the live televising of the statutory one game a week. For the visit of Bilbao, Celta cut their prices by a half and let women and children

Paul Breitner (right) of Real Madrid with the club's manager, Miljan Miljanic.

in free. There was a 10,000 crowd in the Balaidos stadium to see a rain-ruined 1-0 win. Juan it was who beat Iribar ten minutes from time.

Meanwhile Atletico Madrid's Luis Aragones began his career as trainer with a 1-1 draw at Valencia and 2-0 home win against Hercules, spoilt by some incomprehensible refereeing from Tomeu which provoked a hail of cushions from the 40,000 crowd and an equally predictable fine from the league!

Valencia have problems aplenty themselves, and while Yugoslav coach Milovan Ciric bemoans the lack of a "good old-fashioned centre-forward," president Paco Rios is apparently thinking of recalling Alfredo di Stefano—as manager that is! —whom Ciric followed last summer.

Trainers

So the Yugoslav had better watch out or he'll join the ever-lengthening string of trainers out of work. After Juan Carlos Lorenzo quit Atletico, Francisco Gento resigned as manager of second division Castellon, his first such post, because "the crowd are against me," and first division Murcia sacked Felipe Mesones in favour of Ferenc Puskas.

Another former Madridista, Joseito, also announced that he will quit Granada at the end of the season (Should he last so long) because of the way his wife and family are insulted when they attend matches. Granada top the fair play league, while Malaga, at the bottom, could also part company with their manager shortly.

He's Marcel Domingo, the former French international goalkeeper, who only kept his job earlier this season thanks to a petition from the players. Domingo has had some bad luck—13 serious injuries and several suspensions. Maybe that accounts for the 18 bookings!

Effective

The most intriguing tales on the managerial front however are the ones which suggest that Heriberto Herrera—suspended after an effective demonstration of player power at Italy's Atalanta—may be in line to take over his former club, Atletico Madrid; that Juan Carlos Lorenzo may take over Argentina for the 1978 World Cup; and that Miguel Munoz could be just the man to follow Omar Sivori at River Plate.

Finally, another celebration which went wrong.

Football was first played in Spain 100 years ago at Huelva, and to mark the anniversary the federation decided to hold a series of special matches.

RCD Huelva, the local third division team, drew 1-1 with Portsmouth(!), and—with the help of CFB's Sotil and Cos—beat Stoke City reserves 2-0. But the big occasion was meant to be a challenge match between an Andalusia XI and Russia.

The Andalusia team was made up of men from Granada, Sevilla, Betis, Malaga, Cordoba, Cadiz and Huelva, but shortly before the date—December 18—the Russians pulled out.

The Rumanian FA agreed to supply a team but the whole occasion dissolved into total disaster when three Rumanians were sent off (Bolini, Balaci, and Sandu) by local referee Sanchez Rios!

The score—you might just be interested to know—was 4-3 to Andalusia.

Keep up-to-date with league results in Spain in European League Review in next month's WORLD SOCCER

No Englis as Derby

ARTHUR ROTMIL reviews the UEFA CUP competition

EUROPE'S longest international club competition, the UEFA Cup, was the last to produce its eight quarter-finalists The admission of 64 teams, which is twice the number of participants in the more glamourous European Champions Cup and the Cup Winners Cup, means of course that an extra round has to be played before the last eight are determined.

The UEFA Cup which until 1971 was officially called the International Industries Fairs Inter-Cities Cup, has come a long way since it was founded in 1955. The tournament was organised under the Presidency of Mr. E. Thommen of Switzerland a Vice-President of the Executive Committee of FIFA, in collaboration with Dr. Barassi, then President of the Italian Football Association and Sir Stanley Rous, then Secretary of the English Football Association.

The declared object of the competition was to further international sporting relations and to contribute to the friendship among nations, particularly between cities who annually hold Industries Fairs. Twelve cities took part in the first tournament, which was spread over three years (1955-58) and the next over two years (1958-60).

Dead-line

This was partly due to technical difficulties, but mostly on account of the problem of finding free dates, since in those days in the two major tournaments there were no definite dates laid down by the organisers, but merely a dead-line was set by which the clubs were required to complete their fixtures in each round. And in many countries it was not practicable to stage the Fairs Cup ties simultaneously with the lucrative matches in the principal tournaments, usually televised live and thus drawing the bulk of the audiences.

In fact, the Fairs Cup was for many years the poor relation to the European Cup and a number of clubs, notably from Italy, often fielded reserves or promising youngsters to give them international experience. Even such fierce competitors as the Germans, once caused a major upset, when Hamburger SV withdrew from the quarter-finals in 1969, although they were facing modest opposition in the shape of the Turkish side Goeztepe. The Germans preferred to concentrate on their progress in the domestic Cup and League championship!

Big crowds

In recent years, however, several clubs have discovered that given attractive opponents they could fill their grounds even in the once much maligned "third class" competition, the UEFA Cup. The current "vogue" are matches between the West and East German teams, which for reasons of prestige draw big crowds on both sides of the border.

The old Fairs Cup began with a remarkable run of success by Spanish clubs who won six out of the first eight tournaments—only AS Roma (1961) and Ferencvaros (1965) were the "intruders" Barcelona, (three times), Valencia (twice) and Real Zaragoza claimed these early trophies.

Then in 1967 Dynamo Zagreb won it once for Yugoslavia, before English clubs embarked on a splendid series, winning the Cup six times in a row: Leeds, Newcastle, Arsenal, Leeds again, Tottenham and Liverpool, in that order. It has been suggested in some quarters, that this run of victories by English sides is proof of the strength-in-depth of the Football League.

But this should not obscure the fact that the UEFA Cup cannot be an accurate guide to the relative strength of the European National Leagues. For unlike its two big brothers, this competition does not offer equal representation to all participating countries.

England, Italy and West Germany are allowed to enter the maximum of four teams each, which gives them a formidable numerical advantage, moreover as they are kept apart in the early rounds. Most countries are just allowed one or two teams like Scotland for instance, and a few can enter three clubs. In the 1970-71 season, England even had a record five clubs competing and not surprisingly won the tournament again!

Last term, however, the domination by English clubs was ended by Feyeonoord Rotterdam who beat Tottenham Hotspur in the usual two-legged final. This season, for the first time in eleven years, England are not represented in the quarter-finals . .

Surprises

The current competition began in mid-September with relatively few surprises. Perhaps the most significant among the less expected results was the collective failure of English teams, three of whom were eliminated, whilst at the same time the four German sides progressed not only into the Second, but also into the Third Round at full strength!

Of the English "fallers" at least two could plead bad luck at having gone out only under the "away-goals-count-double rule. Stoke City put up a gallant fight against the former European champions Ajax Amsterdam, but the goal they conceded in the 1-1 draw on their own Victoria ground proved decisive, preceding the goalless draw in Amsterdam's Olympic stadium.

No complaints

The same disappointing experience hit Ipswich Town who went out to another Dutch team, Twente Enschede, whom they incidentally had beaten last year. This time Twenty snatched two away goals which gave them the tie after the scores were 2-2 and 1-1.

There could be no complaints from Wolves who fell to the Portuguese side FC Porto on a 4-5 aggregate.

This left Derby County, 6-2 overall winners against Servette Geneva as England's sole representatives in Round Two. The Scottish teams enjoyed mixed fortunes; Hibernian qualified easily at the expense of the Norwegian side Rosenborg Trondheim on a 12-3 aggregate, but Dundee were removed with surprising aplomb by the Belgians RWD Molenbeek, who only won at home 1-0, but by 4-2 in Scotland.

Slammed

German teams had few problems, all four getting through with the highest score recorded by Cologne who slammed Kokkola of Finland by 9-2 overall. With the same aggregate score of 4-2 Fortuna Dusseldorf eliminated AC Torino, while Borussia Monchengladbach, the 1973 finalists, overcame the Austrians from Svarovski Innsbruck. There were no difficulties either for Hamburger SV who got the better of the Irish Republic entry Bohemians (Dublin) by 4-0.

The West Germans continued the clean sweep in Round Two with Hamburg this time leading the spree thanks to a 10-1 overall triumph over the Rumanians Steagul Rosu Brasov. Cologne followed with a 5-3 victory over the other Rumanian entry Dynamo Bucharest.

Once again Borussia Monchengladbach sounded a warning to their rivals, for having beaten Olympique Lyon just 1-0 at home, they won in France convincingly by 5-2. More trouble than expected had Fortuna Dusseldorf who defeated the

h clubs left lose to Velez

Hungarian side Raba Gyor narrowly by 3-2.

Scotland's lone contender, Hibernian, were thrashed by the redoubtable Italians Juventus Turin who won both legs, by 4-2 in Edinburgh and 4-0 at home. But there was a better performance by England's sole survivors Derby County who after two tremendous ties against Atletico Madrid which both ended 2-2, put out last year's European Cup finalists in the decisive penalty contest in Madrid!

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the round was the fine 2-1 overall victory by the unfancied Dutch side FC Amsterdam over once mighty Inter-Milan.

In the Third Round England's last hope Derby were delighted to have avoided some of the big guns, but in the Yugoslav provincial club Velez Mostar they took on more than they bargained for.

The Slavs played splendidly at the Baseball Ground and led till 20 minutes from time by 1-0, when they conceded three late goals all scored by Derby's substitutes, Bourne (2) and Hinton. Yet, the 3-1 advantage was not enough at Mostar, where Velez are a match for anybody. The Yugoslavs won deservedly by 4-1 with the help of two penalties, which according to neutral observers were quite justified.

The German contingent lost its first representative when Fortuna Dusseldorf fell to the surprisingly durable Dutchmen from FC Amsterdam on a 5-1 aggregate. But the other *Bundesliga* clubs made no mistake. Pride of place goes to Borussia Monchengladbach who crushed the strong Spanish side Real Zaragoza by 9-2 overall. Cologne followed suit with a 5-2 triumph over Partizan Belgrade, whilst Hamburger SV scored another prestige win over the "brothers" from the East, by defeating Dynamo Dresden 6-3.

The Dutch celebrated their second success when Twente Enschede disposed of Dukla Prague by 6-3, but Czech honour was saved by Banik Ostrava who rather unexpectedly eliminated the tough Italian outfit Napoli by 3-1 overall.

This was indeed a remarkably courageous performance to win in the "inferno" of the Naples San Paolo stadium by 2-0; few teams can claim a similar distinction. But the Italians still have an ace up their sleeve. In what was clearly the top clash of the tournament so far, Juventus put out Ajax Amsterdam under the away-goals rule, after the sides had tied at 2-2. It was mild revenge for the Italians who lost the European Cup final in 1973 to Ajax by 1-0.

Action from the match between Atletico Madrid and Derby County in Madrid.

REVIEW OF 1974

Conducted by Eric Batty

WORLD football is in a pretty grim situation and though many people I spoke to who followed the World Cup on television actually enjoyed it, I have to say again that as a World Cup veteran I found most of it pretty boring.

Poland were, as I suggested before the competition began, well worth watching and Holland at their brightest were the most skilful side in the competition.

If only Cruyff & Co., could be persuaded to keep up their highest standard for even 60 or 70 minutes out of the 90 instead of confining themselves to brilliant flashes that bring goals and long rest periods in between.

Just for once, though in past years this has not always been true, the overall figures for the year (based on percentage success) confirm the World Cup rankings in which West Germany, Holland, Poland and Brazil finished in that order.

All four are highly placed in the table of results for 1974 and if only the Poles hadn't suffered a loss of form—due to the quarrels of Robert Gadocha (with his club Legia); injury to Kazimierz Deyna and a general and to be fair understandable relaxation in their disciplined approach to the game as demonstrated earlier—the Polish figures would have been even better.

Having lived a strict sporting life in preparation for the biggest international event of their lives the Polish players understandably went back to their wives, girl friends—and no doubt a little beer or vodka and it showed.

After the World Cup both East Germany (3-1) and France (2-0) beat Poland—both feats which I feel would have been beyond the opposition during the World Cup when the Poles were at their best.

From what I saw of international football during the year I would take a hypothetical game between Holland and Poland (both at their very best) to be the best possible advertisement for the game. Refusing to rate anyone at all as World Class, I would bracket these two together at the top of the pile as international class, but more of that later.

Action from the Spain versus Yugoslavia World Cup qualifying match played in Frankfurt last February.

Position

West Germany, as it was reasonable to expect, won the World Cup just as England did in 1966 on their own soil and few will be surprised that their overall figures confirm their position. However, they played 10 of their 15 games at home and in their run up to the World Cup were beaten 1-0 away in Spain and held to 0-0 in Italy.

Both Holland and West Germany have their problems now underlined by Holland's 1-0 win at home to Switzerland and the German's 2-2 draw in Greece and meagre 1-0 win in Malta near the end of the year.

Now, of course, the West Germans are without Gerd Muller, Jurgen Grabowski and Wolfgang Overath who all asked not to be considered any more after their World Cup success and adding to this Paul Breitner is now in Spain with Real Madrid and apparently uninterested in playing again for his country.

Holland too rely very greatly on Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens whose contracts with CF Barcelona stipulate that they will be released only for competitive games. With the Dutch public having shown by failing to turn up for the home game with the Swiss that they are not interested in seeing Holland without the two Johans, the Dutch FA has realistically decided not

Argentina forward Rene Houseman (11)—later excluded from the national team for disciplinary reasons—jumps high over a Spanish defender when the two countries drew 1-1 in October.

to play any more friendly internationals at home.

Of the highly placed teams that did not qualify for the World Cup, Austria, Belgium and Spain provide interesting contrasts. Spain are an improved side though nothing like super-class while Austria though much improved over their 1973 showing (won 1 drawn 2 lost 4 for 7 goals against 19 including that 7-1 humiliation against England at Wembley) have benefitted from a tightening in defence; a slight general improvement, and the advantage of meeting generally poorer opposition.

Belgium alone really deserve their high place. It will be remembered that they were unfortunate to be placed in the same World Cup qualifying group as Holland; went through their six qualifying matches unbeaten and drew at home and away against Cruyff & Co.

Belgium then went out on goals difference while Holland went on to reach the World Cup final so a place near the top is what the Belgians rate—even if they might have been criticised for the negative way in which their coach Raymond Goethals made them play against Holland.

Even in Amsterdam where Belgium had to win to qualify, the Belgians adopted defensive tactics, rarely threw more than two men forward for 80 minutes before finally panicking around trying to get a goal.

Attacking

This approach is all too typical today and was demonstrated at Wembley in the England-Portugal match. After only 20 minutes left back Terry Cooper hobbled off with an old injury and though it was clear for everyone to see by that time that Portugal had no intention of attacking, Don Revie still brought on another defender to keep the back four complement at four men.

A wiser or bolder man could have brought on another midfield player with an attacking bent or even another striker. But the rules are firmly laid—safety first.

East Germany and Sweden both declined after the World Cup with Georg Buschner, the DDR boss, seeing his troops humiliated when little Iceland held them to a draw. Sweden's fall is the more understandable with many of her best players earning a living as professionals with foreign clubs and only made available for the World Cup.

Even so, there is no comparing the Swedish team that frightened West Germany so badly before losing 2-4 during the World Cup with the side that lost 1-5 to Holland, 0-4 to Czechoslovakia and were even beaten 0-2 at home to Northern Ireland in the autumn.

● *Continued on page 24*

Wales' successful new manager, MIKE SMITH

Read about his methods in

Success in Football

Foreword by Allen Wade
Director of Coaching,
the Football Association

152 photographs, £1.50

Team of the moment —Independiente

SOUTH America's team of the moment is Independiente of Argentina . . . and they have been for quite some time. But the rest of the world has only taken notice recently of this often belittled team which—even if it never had such stars as Pele—has achieved more than Santos as a team.

Independiente won the Libertadores Cup—the South American club championship—for the third time running this year (1974) and earlier conquests in 1964 and 1965 make it five times in all—which is more than any other club has won the trophy.

Apart from this, Independiente have now won every other international honour open to them. They also hold the Inter-Continental Cup (played for between the South American and European champions) and have just successfully defended the Inter-American Cup (played for between champions of South America and the North, Central American and Caribbean Confederation).

Locally Independiente has always been one of the so-called "Big Six" who have shared most of the titles between them since professional soccer started here in 1931.

Excessive

Traditionally Independiente have always been a well-run club to the point that in 1950 they dismantled (and sold) an entire front-line—Michelli, Ceoconato, Lacasia, Grillo, Cruz—which had been chosen "en block" for the national team (also to face England in Buenos Aires in 1953), merely because their demands for higher pay were excessive. And in later years they sold other international stars for the same reason—but like a well-run club, they kept coming back.

In 1964 they started their run of international successes with their first Libertadores Cup win, showing then, as now, not a great team, but a great team spirit. Under coach Manuel Giudice—a glutton for hard work — the leaders then were veterans Navarro (a very hard-tackling defender), Ferrero (a tenacious wing marker) and Maldonado (an experienced link-man).

Without brilliance, but plenty of intelligence and helped by a dangerous attack, the team won the First Division championship in 1963 and the South American for the next two years.

What helped them—when the soccer failed—was the confidence they had in themselves. It showed when they were 2-0 down against the mighty Santos (in Rio) in a Cup match, yet won 3-2 in the end.

The veterans left, the team passed through a transition period, but in 1967 they were back as national champions. They went out in the semi final of the Libertadores Cup next year, but their chance came again when, as First Division champions of 1970 and 1971, they went into the 1972 Libertadores Cup and recuperated it.

Omar Pastoriza—now with Monaco—was the star and leader then—an intelligent player who, as a half-back, was the team's top scorer. He "made" the goals and scored them—and he led the whole team. Together with veterans Santoro (goal), Pavoni and Bernao, he controlled the whole squad. One of the stars was centre-forward Hector Yazalde—now leading scorer with Sporting in Portugal.

Discipline

Strict discipline showed in training and the actual games and it made a great team out of what, on paper, seemed just another good one.

Pastoriza was sold to Monaco because Independiente wouldn't pay him as much as the French league club offered. Veteran goalkeeper Santoro played in four Libertadores Cup winning teams, though not in this year's as he was sold to Spanish club Hercules just before.

Now Raimondo, Pavoni and Balbuena are the leaders who maintain the group spirit. All the players are friends and that helps a lot.

Today Independiente are a very experienced team in defence and mid-field and they have a daring forward line.

The defenders are all over 30 except for Commisso and young goalkeeper Gay who finally got his chance this year with the departure of Santoro. As the defenders lack speed, they tend to wait for opposing forwards and seldom go up. When they do go up, they do it in organised fashion to work the off-side trap—at which they are very good.

Precision

When attacking, half-back Raimondo is the link man and organiser with excellent positioning and precision passes. When defending, half Semenewicz plays like a sweeper, but in front of his backs, marking tightly and breaking up attacks from which ever direction they come.

Galvan and Saggiorato complete the middle line with the former, on the right, aggressive and temperamental, but more of a defender while Saggiorato, on the left, is more of an attacker.

Independiente's improvement this year is mainly due to their attack with young Bochini and Bertoni, on the wings, getting better and more dangerous all the time, while veteran international Balbuena fits in well in the middle, has a dangerous shot and is always the first to help out in defence. Yet Raimondo is the axle and all attacks seem to pass through him.

A short time ago Independiente were a defensive team, but this can not be said any more. But they are at their best when counter-attacking. They attack and defend virtually all together and play the closest to "total football" in Argentina.

They are good at forcing defensive teams to come up. They do the same against attacking teams and leave Bertoni well placed for the surprise counter-attack. With their experience it doesn't take them long to find their rivals weak points.

If they are not a brilliant team they are at least practical, united, experienced and organised . . . and that's quite enough to be going on with.

Loop-holes

And they know their own weak points well enough. The main one is their lack of speed down the middle—Raimondo and the centre-backs Sa and Lopez. A player like Cruyff made good use of this when Ajax beat them for the Inter-Continental Cup in 1972. But generally Semenewicz covers up most of the loop-holes in the middle.

Independiente can, however, not stay at the top much longer with their present ageing and overworked team—in November, when defending the Inter-American Cup, they played five matches in 10 days (travelling to Guatemala and back)—but most likely, as on previous occasions, new leaders and new players will appear on the scene to keep Independiente in front.

INDEPENDIENTE'S RECORD IN THE LIBERTADORES CUP

Players in the 1974 Libertadores Cup: Gay (7), Commisso (7), Lopez (6), Sa (7), Pavoni (7), Raimondo (7), Galvan (4), Saggiorato (6), Balbuena (7), Bocchini (7), Semenewicz (7), Carrica (2), Palomba (2), Giribet (2).

INDEPENDIENTE'S RECORD IN THE LIBERTADORES CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	
1961	2	—	—	2	—	3	
1964	8	6	2	—	17	6	Champion
1965	6	3	1	2	8	5	Champion
1966	7	3	2	2	10	8	k.o.'d in semifinal
1968	11	5	1	5	18	16	k.o.'d in semifinal
1972	12	7	4	1	11	8	Champion
1973	7	3	3	1	8	5	Champion
1974	7	4	2	1	12	6	Champion

Players in the 1974 Libertadores Cup: Gay (7), Commisso (7), Lopez (6), Sa (7), Pavoni (7), Raimondo (7), Galvan (4), Saggiorato (6), Balbuena (7), Bocchini (7), Semenewicz (7), Carrica (2), Palomba (2), Giribet (2).

An Independiente defender (2) heads clear from a Boca Juniors attack during a final round match for the National championship. Independiente won 2-0.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

CLOSE RACE BUT FOOTBALL IS NOT GOOD

THERE are two games to go in the exciting final round of the Argentine national championship which has been featured by hectic and close games, a few very good matches, plenty of goals—3.4 per game—but on the whole the poor football won.

The two teams playing the least attractive soccer, Velez Sarsfield and San Lorenzo, lead with eight and seven points respectively. Their tight marking and occasional "anti-football" (gamesmanship) spoils matches.

Independiente, the South American champions, started off with four victories on the run and some good soccer—playing five games during the first week when they also successfully defended the Inter-American Cup against CONCAF champions Municipal in Guatemala. This may have taken too much out of their ageing team. They lost the next two matches narrowly, but with six points they still have a title chance.

The most successful tactic has been the counter - attack. National champions Rosario Central are good at it and are still in contention with six points . . . and small club FC Oeste have used these tactics to get into the final round where they are holding their own.

The sensation of the season are provincial non-First Division club Talleres (Cordoba) who play in their own provincial league. They are the first club not in the First Division ever to qualify for the national championship final round — although up to this year only four teams went into the final round instead of eight. Talleres have some ex-First Division players in their ranks and are coached by Angel Lubruna, the former River Plate international and later coach who is wanted back by his old club.

Big River Plate again just failed—this time to get into the final round and they are still without a title since 1957.

The disappointment are Boca Juniors who, after having the best record of the 36 teams in the group games, quickly dropped out of contention by losing their first four final round matches.

URUGUAY: **Nacional's surprise 2-0 defeat against Defensor gave Penarol the title with one game to go in the First Division for the second year running.**

Relegation this year was decided by adding this season's and last season's points and Bella Vista—in spite of playing well to come fourth this year—go down as a result of last year's poor record when they got only five points.

PERU: **Universitario had stretched their unbeaten run to 27 games at press time and are back at the top of the championship with a one-point lead over newly-promoted Union Huaral who continue to be the season's sensation.**

BRAZIL: **The final round of the Carioca (Rio de Janeiro)championship is in progress between Flamengo, America and Vasco da Gama.**

At press-time Flamengo had beaten America 2-1 in the first game. In Sao Paulo, Palmeiras are virtual champions of the second round of the Sao Paulo State League.

COLOMBIA: **Deportivo Cali needed one more point, with two games to go, to win the First Division championship final round.**

All the other five participants could still take second place which puts them into the Libertadores Cup together with Deportivo Cali.

World Soccer's roving reporter...PA

DEPORTIVO CA

VICTORY AFTE

THE 11-month Colombian soccer season came to an exciting finish with Deportivo Cali emerging as worthy league champions. But Cali gained the title in a way which could not have given great satisfaction to the club or its supporters—it was literally given to them in strange circumstances by their great rivals, America, also of Cali.

With two rounds to play of the "hexagonal"—a play-off for the championship between Colombia's top six teams—Deportivo Cali needed just one point to clinch the title. But first they faced a tough local derby against America, last in the "hexagonal", but always capable of producing an upset.

Before nearly 30,000 fans in the Pascual Guerrero stadium America seemed fated from the start. After just five minutes of play America defender, Bautista, made a weak back-pass which was easily intercepted by Del Puerto who put Cali one up.

Then the fireworks really started. America attacked furiously, coming close to scoring on several occasions, but after 27 minutes their Yugoslav forward, Bucky, was sent off for arguing with Uruguayan referee, Ramon Barreto.

It was the first of a series of dismissals. A few minutes later America full-back, Ospina, was ordered off after a vicious foul on Da Gracca, who later limped off and had to have five stitches in his leg. Within two minutes Calero of Cali and Romero of America had received their marching orders, leaving America with eight players and Cali with ten.

As the teams lined up for the second half the crowd were stunned when Barreto sent off America's captain, Cuero, before the ball had even been kicked.

Abandoned

Furious about the dismissals, Simo Vilic, America's Yugoslav trainer set about bringing the game to a halt. First he made the two regulation substitutions and then sent Bucky back to the touchline to order Bautista to feign a serious injury. As Bautista was carried off the field America were left with just six men and no substitutes available. Under the laws of the game Barreto had no choice but to abandon the match with over half an hour to play, giving Cali a one-nil victory and the title.

Surprisingly the Colombian F.A. did not order an investigation into the affair, probably because no-one seriously thought that the intense rivalry between the two teams would have allowed America to "give" Cali the championship deliberately. As it happened all the Cali's rivals dropped vital points on the same night so their title was certain regardless of the result of the derby.

It wasn't only in this dramatic match that the refereeing of the "hexagonal" hit the headlines. The league had brought in three foreign officials to take charge of the games to eliminate suggestions of bias on the part of local referees.

The referees,—Barreto, and the two Argentinians, Angel Coerezza and Oscar Veiro—proved to be much tougher than the players had expected. In the thirty matches of the "hexagonal" no less than 17 players were sent off, as well as the trainer of Nacional, Cesar Lopez Fretes, who received marching orders twice, and 31 penalties were awarded—an average of more than one per match!

Foreign

Amazingly enough, the foreign referees were highly praised by the Colombian press and even, in many cases, by the players themselves who recognised that their usual volatile behaviour needed to be clamped down on to some extent. The net result could well be that Colombian referees will take a firmer line next season.

The "hexagonal"—an innovation for the Colombian league—proved to be a financial success with attendances averaging well over 20,000, much higher than the usual 10,000 or so for ordinary league matches. Millonarios of Bogota had the best crowds with an average of nearly 35,000.

"Hexagonal"

The organisation of the Colombian league is, to put it mildly, rather complicated. The 14 professional teams play for the championship in three stages—an opening tournament, a "finalisation" round and the "hexagonal".

The opening tournament, in which all teams play each other twice, was won by

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UL RADFORD from Bogota, Colombia

LI CLAIM R FIASCO

Nacional of Medellin after a play-off against Cali. Both automatically qualified for the "hexagonal".

The top and bottom seven from the opening tournament were split into separate groups for the "finalisation", playing teams in their own group twice and teams from the other group once. The winners of each group also qualified for the "hexagonal". Cali won group "A", but as they had already qualified, the runners-up, America, went through along with the champions of group "B", Deportivo Pereira. The two last qualifiers were the teams with the most points from both rounds—Millonarios and Junior of Barranquilla.

Brilliant

Deportivo Cali were certainly the team of the year, and appropriately led the "hexagonal" from start to finish. A lot of their success must be attributed to their brilliant goalkeeper, Pedro Zape, because Cali actually scored fewer goals in the "hexagonal" than any of their opponents, basing their triumph on their defensive record. Zape, who is the country's number one choice, is undoubtedly one of the finest keepers in South America.

Cali's other stars are the brilliant midfield general, Jairo Arboleda, Paraguayan centre-forward, Aristides Del Puerto, and sweeper Alberto Cardacci of Argentina.

Defender Henry Caicedo and midfield man, Adolfo Andrade, are also regular choices for the national side, although Cali are now so well stocked with talent that Andrade has been unable to hold a regular place. It was Cali's fifth title and he second in Colombia for Yugoslav trainer, Vladimir Popovic, who guided Independiente Santa Fe of Bogota to the championship in 1971.

Foreigners

Last season's champions, Nacional, edged their way to second place and qualified for the Copa de Libertadores. While their star forward, Victor Campaz, was the top Colombian goal-scorer in the "hexagonal" with six goals, most clubs relied on their foreigners to do their scoring.

The "hexagonal's" leading target men were the Brazilian, Victor Ephanor of Junior and the Paraguayan, Clemente Rolon, of Pereira, with 12 each. Colombian teams are allowed a maximum of five foreign players, most of whom come from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

One of Colombia's genuine "minnows", Pereira, amazed everyone by placing third, their best achievement ever, while the big disappointment was Millonarios, ten times champions since the professional league started in 1948. Millonarios are able to field practically the whole national side including great stars like winger Willington Ortiz and right-back, Arturo Segovia.

Absence

The club's failure in the "hexagonal" was blamed on the absence of Colombia's best player, 24-year-old midfield general, Alejandro Brand, who was seriously injured last September in a Copa De Libertadores fixture in Peru and has not played since. Brand recently went to New York for a cartilage operation and it is hoped he will be fit within a few months.

Millonarios, despite the affluent-sounding name, are facing financial difficulties, as are all the professional clubs. There are fears that Union Magdalena of Santa Marta may soon be forced to fold up.

Nevertheless, soccer followers in Colombia are optimistic about the state of the national game. Colombia narrowly failed to qualify for the last World Cup, remaining unbeaten in their group and gaining a shock away win against Uruguay. Only two disappointing draws against little Ecuador cost Colombia the chance to appear in West Germany.

Neighbour

Ecuador are once again in Colombia's group for this year's (1975) South American Cup, but Colombia should beat their neighbour this time and qualify at the expense of the third country in the group, Paraguay.

Nobody in South America likes looking far ahead, especially as much as 11 years, but as organiser of the 1986 World Cup the country has been obliged to start serious studies of the problems that may arise.

At the moment it is planned that matches will be played at Bogota, Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla and Pereira.

Some work will have to be done on the stadia, although most of them are already all-seated and the El Campin stadium at Bogota, where the final will be held, can accommodate up to 80,000 spectators.

Colombian league champions since 1948 (start of professional league)

48 Santa Fe
49 Millonarios
50 Deportes Caldas
51, 52, 53 Millonarios
54 Nacional
55 D.I. Medellin
56 Atletico Quindio
57 D.I. Medellin
58 Santa Fe
59 Millonarios
60 Santa Fe
61, 62, 63, 64 Millonarios
65 Cali
66 Santa Fe
67 Cali
68 Union Magdalena
69, 70 Cali
71 Santa Fe
72 Millonarios
73 Nacional
74 Cali

Venezuelan league champions since 1957 (start of professional league)

57 Universidad Central (Caracas)
58 Deportivo Portuguese (Caracas)
59 Deportivo Espanol (Caracas)
60 Deportivo Portuguese
61 Deportivo Italia (Caracas)
62 Deportivo Portuguese
63 Deportivo Italia
64 Deportivo Galicia (Caracas)
65 Lara (Barquisimeto)
66 Deportivo Italia
67 Deportivo Portuguese
68 Union Deportivo Canarias (Caracas)
69, 70 Deportivo Galicia
71 Valencia
72 Deportivo Italia
73 Portuguesa (Acarigua)
74 Galicia

GALICIA WIN FOURTH TITLE

THE Venezuelan club, Galicia, gained their fourth league title by beating Portuguesa of Acarigua one-nil in a play-off for the championship. The goal was scored by Galicia's Brazilian forward, Tiao Kele, in the 34th minute.

Galicia, who are Caracas' most famous club, will represent Venezuela in the Copa de Libertadores along with Portuguesa.

Meanwhile, in Ecuador Liga Deportiva Universitaria became league champions after drawing nil-nil with last season's champions Nacional before over 40,000 people at the Atahualpa stadium in Quito. The two Quito teams will represent Ecuador in the Copa De Libertadores.

It was LDU's second title and they gained a further honour when their Uruguayan player, Luis de Carlos, was elected footballer of the year.

● Continued from page 19

REVIEW OF 1974

Brazil showed in the World Cup that their days of glory are over, temporarily at least. No longer are the beaches of Copacabana teeming with young Peles just waiting to be picked up.

Respected Brazilian critics blame defensive tactics and tough, intimidatory tackling for the apparent disappearance of the old, highly skilled, inventive Brazilian forwards. But being realistic about it, could Pele, Tostao or Garrincha have done any better in the World Cup? We saw in 1966 what Portugal did to Pele.

Despite playing nine of their 16 games of 1974 at home in Brazil, Zagalo's men only just managed to average slightly better than one goal per game despite playing against Zaire in the World Cup whom the Yugoslavs sent away for nine. Brazil have not played since the World Cup and one hopes that will soon begin to develop the players once more.

Strength

Argentina, too, have produced many of the world's great players but like Brazil they seem to have fallen on 'hard' times. You can't have a thing like this both ways—if you go for strength and power at club level then it shows in the national team. This has been at the root of England's problems for years.

In the World Cup only Carlos Babington and Ruben Ayala showed up well for Argentina while Uruguay, their neighbours across the Rio Plata have fallen to the depths. One wonders what Obdulio Varela, Juan Schiaffino and Victor Andrade, who were all brilliant in the 1954 World Cup, would have thought had they been in Germany last summer.

Others that have fallen from grace include the Soviet Union and Italy. The latter, though never an attractive team to watch had the best record in 1973—played 8 won 7 drawn 1 lost 0 and scoring 15 goals against 0. Though they did a home and away double over England there were distinct signs in the Wembley game, late in 1973 that Gianni Rivera and Luigi Riva were over the top.

It was on this that I predicted their future decline but the speed with which they collapsed was remarkable. This year their only win was recorded against little Haiti—and even they scored first.

The Soviet Union appear to be lost and lacking any real answers to their problems. In 1972, without being particularly good they reached the final of the European championship but during 1973 and 1974 their overall performances are won 4 drawn 3 lost 7 and in their four games in 1974 they managed to score only two goals.

Overall, however, no one has any reason to crow. I do not believe that West Germany would have won the World Cup had it not been staged in their country and neither do I go along with those who think that Holland's ability to win matches with four or five ten second bursts of brilliant football proves how brilliant they are.

A game of football lasts for 90 minutes and I expect everyone to play—not necessarily like long distance runners but like top class footballers, attempting to set up an attack that will bring a goal EVERY TIME THEY GET THE BALL.

This is the sort of football that made the game universally popular and would do more than anything to bring the crowds back. If it were combined with a universally accepted move to end the kicking then the game would be transformed to a thriving industry once more.

Finally, still unconvinced that you can list countries in a 1, 2, 3 order with any real accuracy I group the leading football countries under the classifications below:

World Class . . . None

International class . . . Holland and Poland (see earlier comments on both)

Difficult to beat . . . West Germany, England, Brazil, Belgium, Spain, Scotland

Declining . . . Italy, Russia, Rumania, Portugal, Switzerland, Uruguay

Improving . . . Greece, Eire, France.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS TABLE FOR 1974

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Success %
WEST GERMANY	15	11	2	2	27	9	86.6
Holland	14	10	3	1	32	8	82.1
Austria	6	3	3	0	5	2	75.0
Brazil	16	9	5	2	19	6	71.8
Belgium	7	4	2	1	8	4	71.4
Poland	14	9	2	3	27	14	71.4
Spain	5	3	1	1	6	4	70.0
England	10	4	5	1	12	7	65.0
East Germany	18	8	6	4	23	17	61.1
Greece	8	3	3	2	12	12	56.2
Hungary	8	4	1	3	11	13	56.2
Czechoslovakia	9	4	2	3	14	11	55.5
Scotland	11	5	2	4	15	9	54.5
Yugoslavia	13	5	3	5	22	14	50.0
Wales	6	3	0	3	9	6	50.0
Eire	5	2	1	2	7	6	50.0
France	6	2	2	2	9	8	50.0
Argentina	11	3	4	4	16	20	45.4
Sweden	13	4	3	6	12	20	42.3
Uruguay	7	2	2	3	4	8	42.0
Chile	6	1	3	2	3	4	41.6
Northern Ireland	5	2	0	3	4	4	40.0
Denmark	5	1	2	2	4	6	40.0
Bulgaria	17	3	7	7	18	20	38.2
Italy	8	1	4	3	6	8	37.5
Russia	4	1	1	2	2	5	37.5
Rumania	7	1	3	3	4	6	35.7
Finland	6	1	2	3	7	12	33.3
Australia	6	1	2	3	3	7	33.3
Portugal	3	0	2	1	0	3	33.3
Iceland	4	0	2	2	4	7	25.0
Switzerland	7	1	1	5	5	7	21.4
Norway	6	1	0	5	6	11	16.6
Haiti	7	0	1	6	2	20	7.1
Cyprus	2	0	0	2	2	7	0.0

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS 1974

February

Cyprus 1, Bulgaria 4
Yugoslavia 1, Spain 0
Greece 1, Bulgaria 0
Spain 1, West Germany 0
Algeria 0, Yugoslavia 1
Italy 0, West Germany 0
Tunisia 0, East Germany 4
Algeria 1, East Germany 3

March

East Germany 1, Belgium 0
France 1, Rumania 0
Haiti 0, Uruguay 1
West Germany 2, Scotland 1
East Germany 1, Czechoslovakia 0
Holland 1, Austria 1
Brazil 1, Mexico 1
Hungary 3, Bulgaria 1

April

Portugal 0, England 0
Brazil 1, Czechoslovakia 0
Brazil 1, Bulgaria 0
Bulgaria 0, Czechoslovakia 1
Yugoslavia 0, Russia 1

Emlyn Hughes of England and Branko Oblak of Yugoslavia during the 2-2 draw in Belgrade last year.

Belgium 1, Poland 1
West Germany 5, Hungary 0
Brazil 2, Rumania 0
Brazil 4, Haiti 0
Argentina 2, Rumania 1
Australia 0, Uruguay 0
Haiti 0, Chile 1
Haiti 0, Chile 0
Czechoslovakia 3, France 3
Australia 2, Uruguay 0
Brazil 0, Greece 0

May

Brazil 0, Austria 0
West Germany 2, Sweden 0
Switzerland 0, Belgium 1
Brazil 2, Eire 1
Uruguay 2, Eire 0
Scotland 0, N. Ireland 1
Wales 0, England 2
Brazil 2, Paraguay 0
Chile 1, Eire 2
Scotland 2, Wales 0
Poland 2, Greece 0
England 1, N. Ireland 0
France 0, Argentina 1
Scotland 2, England 0
Wales 1, N. Ireland 0
Russia 0, Czechoslovakia 1
England 2, Argentina 2
East Germany 1, Norway 0
Holland 4, Argentina 1
Bulgaria 4, North Korea 1
Israel 2, Australia 1
Bulgaria 2, North Korea 0
Hungary 3, Yugoslavia 2
East Germany 1, England 1
Rumania 3, Greece 1

June

Belgium 2, Scotland 1
Bulgaria 0, England 1
Denmark 0, Sweden 2
Holland 0, Rumania 0
Yugoslavia 2, England 2
Norway 1, Scotland 2
Finland 1, Denmark 1
Austria 0, Italy 0
Sweden 0, Switzerland 0
Brazil 0, Yugoslavia 0
West Germany 1, Chile 0
East Germany 2, Australia 0
Scotland 2, Zaire 0
Holland 2, Uruguay 0
Poland 3, Argentina 2
Italy 3, Haiti 1
Sweden 0, Bulgaria 0
East Germany 1, Chile 1
Scotland 0, Brazil 0
West Germany 3, Australia 0
Yugoslavia 9, Zaire 0
Holland 0, Sweden 0
Bulgaria 1, Uruguay 1
Poland 7, Haiti 0
Argentina 1, Italy 1
East Germany 1, West Germany 0
Brazil 3, Zaire 0
Chile 0, Australia 0
Scotland 1, Yugoslavia 1
Poland 2, Italy 1
Argentina 4, Haiti 1
Holland 4, Bulgaria 1
Sweden 3, Uruguay 0
West Germany 2, Yugoslavia 0
Holland 4, Argentina 0
Brazil 1, East Germany 0
Poland 1, Sweden 0
Holland 2, East Germany 0
West Germany 4, Sweden 2
Poland 2, Yugoslavia 1
Brazil 2, Argentina 1

July

West Germany 1, Poland 0
Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1
Holland 2, Brazil 0
Argentina 1, East Germany 1
Poland 1, Brazil 0
West Germany 2, Holland 1

August

Sweden 2, Norway 1
Norway 1, Finland 2
Iceland 2, Finland 2

September

Finland 1, Poland 2
Poland 1, East Germany 3
Sweden 1, Holland 5
Austria 2 Wales 1
Norway 2, N. Ireland 1
Switzerland 1, West Germany 2
Poland 0, France 2
Iceland 0, Belgium 2
Denmark 1, Spain 2
Finland 1, Holland 3
Czechoslovakia 3, East Germany 1
Bulgaria 0, Rumania 0
Yugoslavia 1, Italy 0
Austria 1, Hungary 0

October

Poland 3, Finland 0
Denmark 2, Iceland 1
Holland 1, Switzerland 0
Belgium 2, France 1
East Germany 1, Iceland 1
Argentina 1, Spain 1
Bulgaria 3, Greece 3
Luxembourg 2, Hungary 4
Czechoslovakia 4, Sweden 0
Denmark 0, Rumania 0
Russia 1, Bulgaria 1
Eire 3, Russia 0
England 3, Czechoslovakia 0
Wales 2, Hungary 0
Yugoslavia 3, Norway 1
Sweden 0, N. Ireland 2
Scotland 3, East Germany 0

November

Bulgaria 0, Hungary 0
Switzerland 3, Portugal 0
Czechoslovakia 2, Poland 2
Turkey 0, Austria 1
Greece 3, Cyprus 1
France 2, East Germany 2
Greece 2, West Germany 2
Scotland 1, Spain 2
England 0, Portugal 0
Holland 3, Italy 1
Turkey 1, Eire 1
Wales 5, Luxembourg 0

December

Turkey 2, Switzerland 1
Hungary 1, Switzerland 0
East Germany 0, Belgium 0
Greece 2, Bulgaria 1
Malta 0, West Germany 1
Italy 0, Bulgaria 0
France 2, East Germany 2
Greece 2, West Germany 2
Scotland 1, Spain 2
England 0, Portugal 0
Holland 3, Italy 1
Turkey 1, Eire 1
Wales 5, Luxembourg 0

GLOOM AT SA
—CAN SUAREZ

SAN Siro stadium in Milan is not the happy place it used to be. The intrigues and whispers and devotion are still there. But the two famous clubs which alternate on match days, A.C. Milan and Internazionale, have a lot of problems to sort out before either can hope to be back in the European limelight.

And that limelight, to Italian fans, means the Champions Cup. The Cup Winners Cup? Well, Milan won it a couple of times and lost last season's final. But it's not the prestige competition it appears to the British and the West Germans.

And the UEFA Cup? Well, that hardly counts at all.

Inter were in the UEFA Cup this season, of course, going out to FC Amsterdam 2-1 on aggregate in the second round. All in all, I was surprised that they bothered to go that far.

The president at Inter is one Ivanoe Fraizzoli, whose heaviest burden is the fact that his predecessor, oil magnate Angelo Moratti, was at the helm during the greatest period in the club's history —winning the World Club Cup and Champions' Cup twice, and the championship three times as well as losing once in a play-off.

But, as Fraizzoli noted recently—not just noted, really, *emphasized*—all that was achieved mainly thanks to foreign stars such as Luis Suarez, Jair da Costa, Horst Szymaniak and Joaquim Peiro. And now, in Fraizzoli's eyes, not only are Inter not in the best of health, but neither is Italian soccer.

Luigi Riva, whose name was linked with Inter Milan at one time.

Milan's Cup Winners Cup final defeat at the hands of Magdeburg; Lazio's exclusion from the Champions Cup; the Italian World Cup fiasco; the recent defeats at the hands of Yugoslavia and Holland—all these were apparently symptoms of a sickness in *Calcio*.

The patient needed a tonic, said Fraizzoli, and his prescription is nothing less than the reopening of the frontiers to foreigners.

It is 11 years ago now that Italy shut up shop, after a couple of years restricting each club to two-foreigners-per-match. Reconfirming the ban has been an annual event since and it was obvious, after the success of Johan Cruyff in Spain, that demands would soon swell for a new line of thinking in *Calcio* so that the big clubs could catch up.

Not that Juventus and Lazio haven't done very well with Italian purchasing, unlike Milan and Inter. As one colleague put it: "If Fraizzoli can't buy the right players when they are on the market in Italy, what kind of rubbish might Inter bring in from outside?"

But that's jumping the gun.

Requested

Fraizzoli's plea went like this: "The crisis we face was amply illustrated when Juventus played Hibernian in the UEFA Cup. They needed to bring on Jose Altafini, a 36-year-old Brazilian, to win the game. Surely that says it all. I have officially requested Artemio Franchi (FA president) and Franco Carraro (League president) that we open the frontiers again. The clubs could pay for the players easily enough by taking part in foreign tournaments and tours.

"I have been promised that the situation will be reviewed."

Perhaps Fraizzoli was thinking that the ban on foreign coaches might be lifted too. This extra barrier had scotched his earlier attempt to engage Stefan Kovacs as successor to Helenio Herrera, whose contract was not renewed after his heart attack a year ago.

That may sound a very uncharitable attitude from a big club like Inter, but the reality is somewhat more complex. When HH, now 58, went down ill, the team was entrusted to his erstwhile deputy, Enea Masiero, a former wing-half under Herrera during HH's previous reign in the mid-sixties.

Unfortunately Masiero was not too successful, and Fraizzoli was landed with the extreme embarrassment of a prolonged slanging match between the bed-

N SIRO
LIFT IT?

KEIR RADNEDGE looks at the current fortunes of Inter Milan ...once the Kings of Europe

ridden Herrera and Masiero conducted, with an almost joyful lack of diplomacy, through the Press.

Fraizzoli's solution was honest enough, therefore. Since Herrera's state of health would obviously not permit him to return as tracksuit boss, his contract could not be extended and it wasn't as if he needed the money. But Masiero had not done much for the club's image either and so he was sent back to coaching the youth teams.

Luis Suarez, the 39-year-old former Spanish international who was Inter's midfield general in the sixties, was brought from the backroom staff at Genoa. There was still a problem to surmount however: Suarez did not hold the necessary qualifications under league regulations and the way these were rushed through led Fulvio Bernardini, now national team boss but then unaware of his destiny, to resign as chairman of the coaching association in protest.

Suarez has not exactly brought Inter immediate success—at the end of the year they were seventh with 12 points from 11 games—and thus came Fraizzoli's outburst. Perhaps Il Presidente felt that, having tried enough different trainers, it had to be the players at fault.

So, in went his formal request to Franchi. Yet, even before the UEFA chief had had a chance to speak, Altafini himself—who played against England in the 1958 World Cup Finals—gave a pretty uncompromising reply.

"If he thinks like that he can't know his football," said Altafini.

"Matthews was playing for England and in his forties and Nils Liedholm was still playing *libero* for Milan when he was 38—even though the frontiers were open to foreigners at the time."

Credentials

Fraizzoli couldn't pick out individual cases to justify his generalisations. "There's certainly no crisis at Juventus. And if the Inter president insists on referring to our 4-2 win in Edinburgh well . . . it's true that I scored twice. But he ought to remember that I only came on at half-time when we were already 1-0 up."

Altafini's credentials are impeccable—only three players have scored more goals in the history of the Italian league. Franchi also came up with a similarly obstinate answer.

"All this talk that we're likely to consider bending the rules to let foreigners in again is entirely hypothetical," he said, just to add to Fraizzoli's problems.

For the Inter president had just been involved in an extremely unpleasant ransom attempt.

Shortly before his plea over the border issue, he had received a telphone call, warning that unless he paid over £65,000 reprisals would be taken against his family. Fraizzoli arranged to meet the caller and "hand over the money," the police went along too and arrested a 34-year-old father of two who is now awaiting trial.

Abortive

Fraizzoli is thus one man who will clearly be glad to have seen the back of 1974. Inter finished fourth last season, eight points behind champions Lazio and then lost out in the abortive race for Gigi Riva, when it seemed that the player might be prepared to accept a transfer from Cagliari. Inter, Milan and Juventus were the main rivals for his signature, but some inopportune remarks from Farizzoli about Cagliari's methods of business brought this retort from Andrea Arrica, the Sardinian club's president: "If we do transfer Riva, I'll make sure he doesn't go to Inter now."

In the event of course Riva stayed at Cagliari and muscle injuries meant that he missed the first half of the season. Fraizzoli might be grateful for small mercies!

Provoked

Still, he was soon involved in more arguments. During a 2-1 Cup win against Vicenza in September he had a stand-up row with a local industrialist, Nereo Bressan, all provoked by Bressan's reaction to a foul on Vicenza's Sandro Vitali by Inter's 19-year-old Graziano Bini. Hardly had the dust settled than Fraizzoli crossed swords with Juventus president Giampiero Boniperti at a league committee meeting.

Boniperti claimed that Fraizzoli had insinuated that he was a lackey of the Agnelli brothers (of Fiat fame), and walked out of the meeting in disguest. "I never said anything like that," replied an aggrieved Fraizzoli later. But then, relations between Inter and Juve have never been all sweetness and light.

All that was off-the-field stuff. But now Inter's most pretentious on-the-pitch revolution has come to grief as well.

Giacinto Facchetti, it was announced after the World Cup—when everyone was talking about Cruyff and Beckenbauer and total football—would be Inter's new sweeper, replacing Tarcisio Burgnich, transferred to Napoli (now ridiculously trying to play the offside trap!).

Facchetti, 32 years old, with 84 caps, told us that he intended to play five more years, and this was the way he would do so.

"If my team-mates help I can still come forward and score as I used to. The time of the *libero* chained to the penalty spot like Picchi is long gone. You have to play with 11 men now, not ten, as our teams have done so much."

Suarez was only too glad to give Facchetti his head, though the early games did little to convince him that this was a long-term development. "Facchetti still lacks a little authority and bite," said the Spaniard. "The trouble is, he's too much of a gentleman with his own team-mates . . . and even opponents as well, sometimes."

Campaign

Anyway, Facchetti started the campaign as *libero* without setting the league on fire and broke a couple of ribs against Ascoli in a 0-0 draw at the end of October. The strange thing was that it was not until late in the first leg of the UEFA Cup first leg against FC Amsterdam the following Wednesday (lost 2-1 in San Siro) that Facchetti realised something was wrong.

A couple of weeks' rest was prescribed and when Suarez brought in Bini as *libero*, the youngster did so well that Facchetti's return, at Cesena on December 8, was at left back with Bini still the *libero*.

Whispers

There have long been loud whispers that Boninsegna and Mazzola are not exactly the best of friends, and when Sandro—who has just passed the 350-match mark in the league—was asked what was the matter with Boninsegna he wouldn't be drawn.

"That's a problem for the trainer," was all he would say.

Defender Gabriele Oriali wasn't so non-committal. "What's happened? Boninsegna needs more help, that's what." Maybe it'll be forthcoming as 1975 progresses. One man who, above all others, must certainly hope so, is Ivanoe Fraizzoli.

Dallas tournament

from Colin Jose

THE North American Soccer League which has been concerned for some time about the break-up of its clubs after its own relatively short season will inaugurate its first indoor season in Dallas on January 24.

Commissioner Phil Woosnam recently announced that the games will be played in the form of three qualifying tournaments with Dallas, Rochester, Tampa and San Francisco being the centres.

Competing in the Dallas tournament on January 24 and 26 will be the Dallas Tornado, St Louis Stars, Philadelphia Atoms and Denver Dynamos. Playing in Rochester will be the Rochester Lancers, New York Cosmos, Boston Minutemen and a team yet to be determined. These games will be played on February 6 and 8.

The new club in Tampa, Florida on the gulf coast will be the hosts on February 14 and 16 with the Baltimore Comets, Miami Toros, Washington Diplomats and the Tampa Bay Rowdies playing off, while on February 21 and 23 at the Cow Palace in San Francisco the San Jose Earthquakes, Los Angeles Aztecs, Seattle Sounders and Vancouver Whitecaps will be competing.

Winners of the four tournaments will qualify for the semi-finals which will be held in San Francisco on March 14 and 16 and the final at the same venue on March 22. The Philadelphia-Dallas game from the Dallas tournament will be televised by the CBS Television Network as will be the final.

Commenting on the indoor season Woosnam said: "We are extremely pleased that CBS will provide coverage of our indoor season. We are excited about the future of indoor soccer and that we will have this opportunity to expose it to the entire country. Indoor soccer will enable the league to supplement the outdoor schedule which runs from April through August."

Indoor

NASL indoor soccer will be played on an artificial surface laid inside a hockey rink, with six men per team. The game combines the best of soccer and hockey, which allows for the use of boards, which keeps the ball in play, and the constant changing of lines. For the indoor tournaments, the games will consist of three fifteen minute periods.

The NASL outdoor summer schedule which will open in April is expected to be the largest ever in terms of member teams with at least 18 competing probably in four divisions. The previous high was in 1968 when the league had 17 teams in membership, however, after a disastrous season the membership slumped to just five in 1969 before a steady rebuilding process began.

During last summer's schedule there were 15 teams and of these all will probably be back for 1975 although there still remains some doubt about Toronto which has been having financial difficulties. New clubs in the league this summer will be the Tampa Bay Rowdies, Chicago Sting and the San Antonio club from Texas with the possibility that there could be two others to make the number up to 20.

Two well known former British stars have been appointed to coach NASL clubs. Eddie Firmani who began his English career with Charlton Athletic before moving to Italy where he played for Inter-Milan and Sampdoria and also played in three internationals for Italy will handle the new Tampa club while the former Manchester United star Bill Foulkes, who played once for England back in 1955, will be in charge of the Chicago Sting.

A coach who has changed clubs is Alex Perolli who led the Los Angeles Aztecs to the NASL championship last year. In a surprise move Perolli switched to the new San Antonio Thunder.

Meanwhile the Canadian national team which returned from a European tour in November has gone to Cuba for two weeks training as part of a Sport Canada programme to get amateur athletes in Canada some outdoor training during the coldest months of the winter. There is a possibility that Canada will play an international against Cuba during the team's stay on the island.

Brave effort from Malta

Malta's gallant effort against West Germany in the European Championship ended in a 1-0 defeat in Valetta as expected perhaps.

Their most experienced player Edward Aquilina was a professional in North America with Pittsburgh Phantoms for a time.

Apparently he managed to "ghost" in from the wings on several occasions against the Germans.

In 1973 the Swedish F.A. decided that foreign players with a year's residential qualification could play in the championship, but only two foreigners per team are allowed.

When the rule was put into operation in 1974 the only foreigner was an Englishman called Powell playing for IF Brynas. But they have been relegated and when the season restarts in 1975 it is certain that the only players in the First Division will be Swedes.

The name of Ronnie Dellow will mean little or nothing to patrons of Maine Road, Manchester these days. In fact Dellow was briefly associated with the club as a player in the past.

At 17 he was an amateur with Blackburn Rovers in the mid 1930s. He joined Mansfield Town as a professional and then went to Manchester City. In 1946-47 he became player-manager of Ards in the Irish League and in 1948 went to Holland where he became trainer of Schiedamse Hermes DVS at the age of 30.

Dellow coaches various clubs in Holland through the years and is currently in charge of Heracles a Second Division side. Recently in the third round of the Cup he brought off a sensational win for his side after they beat Ajax 4-2 after extra time.

In the days when he was in charge of Volendam, Dellow was known as the Pied Piper of Volendam.

The December 1974 issue of the FIFA News reports a batch of claims about undefeated runs by club sides. The Guatemalan F.A. reported that the 1973 national champions Municipal played 30 games consecutively without defeat.

But there was another claim that in 1934 Hapoel Tel-Aviv won the Israel championship without dropping a point, though only 14 League games were played. They also did the double that season by winning the Israeli Cup.

However, a number of British teams have much better records than these. In 1920-21 season Burnley had a run of 30 matches without defeat in Division One while from October 1968 to August 1969 Leeds United were undefeated in a run of 34 League games. But from November 1915 to April 1917 Celtic went 63 League games without losing!

'Why is Hungarian football sick...'

Leslie Vernon looks at a book recently published in Budapest

A BOOK entitled "Why is Hungarian football sick?" has become the hottest property on the Budapest black-market. Written by playwright and novelist Antal Vegh, this thin paperback was originally priced at 11 forints (20 pence).

Following a court injunction the book was withdrawn, and it now fetches around £8 in under-the-counter sales. I have read and re-read this volume, and quite frankly, do not quite know what to make of it. It is one of those "let us wash our dirty linen in public" efforts, not unlike "The Glory Game" by Hunter Davies.

No doubt Vegh means well, and his "revelations" are quite sensational. But most of the "scandals" described have been known to a vast number of people. "Open secrets" are publicized in the disguise of describing symptoms of a fatal illness.

Yet, the mere fact that the book has created such an interest, and furore in some circles, bears witness to the eternal, incurable love of football of the Hungarians. This is therefore an important work, and might act as a catalyst in the present sorry state of their football. At least, it might stop some of the malpractices which are told in lurid details — Vegh doesn't generalize, he does name names.

Bribed

The author speaks of wholesale corruption. Results are pre-arranged, money openly changes hands between the bribers and the bribed. Players act through unscrupulous intermediaries, and there is a fixed rate for a vital league point. In one case, the cash was paid in the dressing room corridor when the teams were waiting to go on the pitch. When questioned, these cheats said that they were collecting an old loan.

Sad indeed, and I have no doubt that it is all true. But the very same thing has been a widespread practice in W. Germany at a time when they won the European Championship! If it didn't hurt them, why should the same evil practice ruin the Hungarians?

"Players have too much power," writes Vegh. "Florian Albert was responsible for the sacking of several Ferencvaros managers." Again, wasn't Bremner responsible for the shameful treatment handed out to Clough at Leeds? And who were responsible for the sacking of Ron Saunders at Manchester City? Why did Rocco leave Milan? Who made Di Stefano's position untenable at Sporting Lisbon?

Before you say that two (or three or four) wrongs don't make a right, I hasten to add that I do deplore these methods. Nevertheless, they do exist in most countries without any visible harm to the standard of their game. Remember the title of the book? What then are the real reasons for the "sickness"?

I go all the way with Vegh when he points the finger at the ridiculous amateur or professional conundrum. To quote: "A peasant took a cow to the market, and was asked by a would-be buyer whether the animal was a cow or an ox? Not knowing what the buyer was after, he said that it could be either!

Discipline

If we demand discipline etc. from our players, then they plead that they are amateurs. But when they want some payment or privilege, then they are pros!

Of course, I cannot go into details, because the members of that Committee are not blind, and if they see our "golden boys" perform, they must conclude that they are amateurs!"

This vexed question of status leads to other anomalies. The players have civilian jobs (on paper only), and receive wages for doing absolutely nothing. Such a system undermines the morals of the recipients of this easy money.

When a player is fined or suspended by his coach, he goes to his civilian employer complaining of harsh treatment. These sob-stories are usually believed, the fine or lost bonuses are made good, and the player feels free to laugh into the coach's face. Heavily subsidized by state institutions and industry, football is in the hands of inexpert "managing directors".

Selection

These people who dole out somebody elses' money generously or otherwise, expect certain rights for their largesse. It isn't enough for them to be seen in public with well-known footballers, they also interfere in team selection, training schedules, tactical planning etc.

Some of our managers in England find it difficult to deal with a "nouveau riche" chairman — imagine how much more troublesome a state-backed pseudo-expert can be.

While I am in full agreement with Vegh concerning these aspects of Hungarian football, when he gets down to personalities, he loses my sympathy. There is the compulsory attack on sports-journalists, accusing them of complacency and cowardice. This is grossly unfair. Not only because the Hungarian football writers have been openly critical of the system for as long as I can remember, but also because of the complexities of their jobs.

It is all very well to be brave and outspoken—to the point of libel!—in a one-off paperback. But when your livelihood depends on the trust and friendship of people in the game, and the popularity of the game itself, you must temper your judgement with diplomacy.

There are also unwarranted and unjust attacks on such hard-working people as coaches Lajos Baroti, Rudolf Illovszky, and the ex-national team manager, Jozsef Hoffer. Vegh complains that Hungarian footballers are not intellectuals, and when they are abroad they don't take full advantage of the "cultural" opportunities.

Control

Apparently, when M.T.K. visited Athens, the players refused to visit the Acropolis, and preferred to go to a store to buy some razor-blades. In Paris, they spent their time playing cards, and only one player wanted to see the Louvre.

This is, of course, absolutely irrelevant, because, as Vegh himself writes: "If a footballer cannot control the ball, there is no use showing him the Eiffel Tower, he will still be a bad player". Exactly! To sum it up, this is a very interesting, highly controversial book with its own personal point of view. It poses the question in a variety of ways, but it is short on remedies —perhaps there isn't one.

In any case, let's give the last word to Antal Vegh. His closing sentences read. "Why is Hungarian football sick? Because, it couldn't be otherwise with its present line-up. We must change the "selectors" and the "team"!"

Bereta saga was confusing

AS YOU may have heard, French football has been confused, obsessed, outraged and generally abuzz and agog with the case of Georges Bereta. France's international left winger, a Saint Etienne star on long contract, a stalwart of the professional footballers' union, captain of his team, he seemed one of its immovable bulwarks; a key figure in their exciting progress through the European Cup. What seemed quite stupendously inconceivable is that he could change horses in midstream; indeed, that Saint Etienne would even dream of letting him.

Thus when, early in December, a Southern French newspaper ran the story that Bereta might be transferred from Saint Etienne to Marseille, the Parisian newspapers dismissed this with scorn. In their turn, the Presidents of the respective clubs, M. Meric of Olympique Marseille and M. Roger Rochet of Nice, denied it, too. Their denials, even at a time of extreme scepticism about the word of Presidents, and almost anyone else in football, seemed the more convincing in that the notorious case of Carnus and Bosquier was still but a few years old.

Limited contract

For those who do not remember it, let me recall to you that when the *contrat a temps*, or time limited contract, was just about to be implemented, it was suddenly made known that goalkeeper Carnus and centre-half Bernard Bosquier, French internationals both, had already signed contracts to leave Saint Etienne the following season for Marseille; the very team who were pursuing them, albeit at a respectful distance, at the top of the Championship.

M. Rochet flew immediately into a paddy, had both players thrown out of the team, a demoralised Saint Etienne let their substantial lead slip, and it was Olympique who won the title and contested the next European Cup.

But gradually both Presidents changed their tune, until it became clear, to the horror of the Parisian Press and of the Saint Etienne fans, that Bereta was indeed going to move to Marseille; and apparently for a huge transfer fee, at a huge salary, which dreadfully transgressed all the stipulations of the time limited contract, whereby such figures were reached by laboriously calculating a player's age times how long his contract had to run and so on, and which certainly forbade him to earn any more than he was earning already. Berta's contract had another good year to run.

Justifiable resentment

Bereta said that the initiative wasn't his, that he didn't want to leave, but that when a man's club was willing to let him go, then that was another matter. M. Roby Herbin, the former French World Cup international who now puffs his pipe and manages Saint Etienne, his old club, said no player was indispensable. He also said, to Bereta's justifiable resentment, that Bereta was not a man.

Bereta's feeling is that Herbin was willing and ready to let him go, perhaps partly because he was a little embarrassed by the fact that they had so long been players together. At all events, the whole affair has left an extremely bitter taste; a shame indeed at a time when French football in general and that of Saint Etienne in particular was so emphatically looking up. M. Roger Rocher, meanwhile, hastened to offer his resignation. Players and officials made haste to beg the impulsive President to withdraw it; the President seemed pleased.

Meanwhile, at Marseille, Bereta has found a splendid young goalkeeper; a position in which we do not exactly lack talent. His name is Rene Charrier, he is 23 years old, which is pretty young for a goalkeeper these days, and so brilliantly did he play at Nantes that the French international reigning goalkeeper, Bertrand-Demanes, he of the endless contract, cried, "Magnificent, he was magnificent!" He did just as well when, soon afterwards, he kept goal for the French Under 23 team against their East German counterparts. It is plain that the generous Bertrand-Demanes has an impressive rival.

News from France by Andre Duclos

Yet seven years ago, Charrier was a winger playing for a youth team in the Grenoble area! The familiar goalkeeping story: the reserve team's keeper was hurt, and he went successfully into goal. Then the first team goalkeeper was hurt, and he took another step upward and forward. It was not, however, a question of a big club's scout coming, seeing, admiring, and whipping him away to greater things. Not at all. Charrier had actually to go as far as answering a magazine advertisement looking for a goalkeeper under the age of twenty. Back came a letter from the Aulnoye amateur club, and he was away.

He was now in the North East, did well against Sedan reserves and, after two years with Aulnoye, was taken on by Sedan themselves. That was in 1972. Last season saw him give away more than eighty goals—after which, he says, he can take any experience with some philosophy—play for the Under 23 team, and eventually sign for Marseille. He has a five year contract, and everyone expects him, all things being equal, to play for France. Perhaps in the very near future.

No rational grounds

Charrier's excellence could not prevent Saint Etienne winning their match at Marseille; perhaps it was the superb performance given by Bereta that day which persuaded Marseille to buy him. Certainly it gave Saint Etienne no rational grounds for letting him go. By the way, 37,000 saw the match.

Though there is no doubt that Marseille have had to borrow to finance the transfers of Bereta and their two costly Brazilians, Paulo Cesar and Jairzinho, it was also legitimate for M. Meric to say that the support in Marseille is potentially excellent; though one does not recall him using the word "potentially". Give the Marseille fans a really good game, or a really successful team, or both, and they will come fairly flocking to the stadium.

Many were disappointed when Raymond Kopa and the Angers club failed to find a way of bringing him on to the board of directors. Kopa wanted to help, but insisted on bringing in his own team of directors. Angers said no; sad but perhaps to be expected.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS

Since Andre Duclos filed his report from Paris, the French Football Association have fined Marseille £7,000 for making an illegal approach for Bereta. They also fined St. Etienne £1,000 for being a party to the deal and ordered that Bereta receive only £3,000 per year from Marseille and not the £5,000 originally offered.

NEXT MONTH

Profile of PELE

A special chart tracing his career and achievements

MALMOE WIN EVERYTHING

STEFAN THYLIN from Sweden

YOU can't win them all, they say. Well Malmoe FF certainly could last season. They won everything.

● They were League Champions, nine points ahead of the runners up, AIK from Stockholm. They lost only two games and conceded only 15 goals in 26 games, a new record for the Swedish first division.

● They won the Swedish Cup, after beating Oester in the final, 2-0.

● They won the Inter Toto Cup during the summer.

● They won the EP Cup, a tournament named after Eric Persson, the President of Malmoe. It was played before the season started, between teams from the southern parts of Sweden and from Denmark.

Malmoe had success in Europe as well. They beat Sion (Switzerland) and Lahden Reipas (Finland) in the Cup Winners Cup and are in the quarter-final.

Malmoe have always been a great club, the best in Sweden. Yet their success last season was remarkable.

After the two previous seasons, when Malmoe were sixth and fourth in the League, it was obvious that they needed one new defender and at least one new striker. And what happened? Well, they did get a new striker: Thomas Sjoeberg, from Eskilsminne a fourth division club. But at the same time they lost two of their best players: Curt Olsberg and Conny Andersson.

Then, along came a 27-year-old Englishman . . .

Intelligent

Bob Houghton? Who is Bob Houghton? The question was there to be answered.

We learned that Bob Houghton had played for Brighton and Fulham, that he was a qualified coach, had worked under Bobby Robson at Ipswich and had been player-manager in South Africa.

Now we know more. We know that Houghton is an intelligent and extraordinary talented coach with a professional attitude that many Swedish coaches don't have.

He organised the team and he motivated the players . . . and we could soon see the difference.

He was lucky. He came to a club with great traditions, a club which had won the championship nine times and been runners up eight times.

But on the other hand Malmoe was lucky to get a coach like Houghton . . . and they appreciate it. After the end of the season Bob signed a four year contract with "The Blues", which is the nickname of the club.

How could Malmoe win everything—so easily?

Well, they had the best organised defence, the best midfield players and three quick and dangerous strikers. That's all . . . .

Very, very few teams were able to penetrate Malmoe's defence. No team could match their skill and strength in midfield. And the strikers scored at least once or twice each game. That was often enough.

Two of Malmoe's midfield players were automatic choices for Sweden in the World Cup Finals: Bo Larsson, one of the best players ever in this country, and Staffan Tapper. Four other players figured in Georg Ericson's national team last season: Roland Andersson, Roy Andersson, Anders "Puskas" Ljungberg and Thomas Sjoeberg.

So what about next season?

"I think we'll win the League again, but not so easily", Houghton says.

Successful

Bob has a dream: he wants to make Malmoe a successful team not only in Sweden, but also in Europe.

"This season could be very exciting", he says. "We play in the Cup Winners Cup in the spring and in the European Cup in the autumn. And we're not there just for the ride."

The problem for all Swedish clubs is that they don't play during the winter. It's too cold. The League starts in the beginning of April and finishes in the end of October.

The quarter-finals in Europe will be played on March 5 and 19, and neither Malmoe nor Atvidaberg, in the European Cup, are on song then.

"I know it's a problem. But we have so many experienced players that we can make it", Houghton says.

No Swedish team has reached any of the semi-finals in Europe. Malmoe could be the first.

Swedish national team manager George Erikson.

Left-footed players—where have they gone?

WE live, it seems, in the age of the right-foot player. To have two good feet is becoming a rarity. To have a good left foot must be the answer to a manager's dream.

England, at international level, prove the point. Long before the World Cup demise or the more recent disappointment against Portugal Sir Alf Ramsey and now Don Revie have been forced to field an England team without true left-sided players.

Biased

Now you may think, because I was indoctrinated in the habits of being a West Ham supporter almost as soon as I had made my first faltering infant steps, that I am biased. Perhaps. But if it's left-sided player you seek, then visit Upton Park.

It's an accepted fact of 1975 life that West Ham are having their best year since winning the European Cup Winners Cup a decade ago. And while the whole spirit and atmosphere has changed around the Boleyn Ground to help bring about the improvement couldn't the fact that West Ham have true left-footed players in their line-up have something to do with it as well?

Keith Robson and Graham Paddon are essentially left-footed players while full-back Frank Lampard is at home on either leg.

Their presence has given West Ham as well-balanced a side as there is in the First Division.

Bargain

Robson is arguably the bargain buy of the season. A snip at the under £50,000 from Newcastle, he has slotted immediately into the West Ham pattern and, with Bobby Gould, has given the side an attacking aggression they have lacked since the halcyon days of Geoff Hurst.

The "Sunday People", whose points-marking system for players might be open to ridicule from serious-minded observers, revealed that according to their reporters' statistics Robson was the most consistent striker in the country this season.

As yet Robson has been overlooked for Under-23 honours, but I cannot help wondering how long it may be before Don Revie eyes the potential of a truly left-sided striker.

Meanwhile Paddon has gone on grafting in the middle of the park where he has to share the limelight with the rumbustious Billy Bonds and the elegant Trevor Brooking.

His work rate rivals that of Bonds, though physically he does not match the strength of the Hammers skipper, while on the left side he can be almost as smooth as international Brooking. Paddon's part in the West Ham revival is now receiving the credit it has deserved. Throw in a powerful left-foot shot—not used enough, I suggest—and you have the second man for Revie surveillance.

Respected

At the back Lampard has been a long-respected defender at West Ham. But in a side that has been playing well he has emerged as a far better player this season than when capped, briefly, by Sir Alf Ramsey a couple of years back. Lampard's willingness to attack and his menace from dead-ball situations are two other assets which helped one commentator decide recently: "If there's a better left-back in the country, then I haven't seen him."

I do not suggest international call-ups for all, even any, of these three players. But if the need for left-sided players in the England side is as bad as it is suggested, then West Ham might not be a bad place for Don Revie to start his search.

by Keir Radnedge

MY "PASSING the Buck" award for 1974 goes unhesitatingly to the Spanish league for the ridiculous way they have chickened out of a definitive lead or ruling on the country's biggest sports scandal of the year.

As you no doubt know, each team in Spain is allowed to field two foreigners—but any number of players who can lay claim to Spanish parents. And the number of South Americans who have just discovered that they have Spanish forebears is beyond belief—a subject I touched on in the November issue of *World Soccer*.

Player after player—including world famous internationals such as Brazil's Mario Marinho and Ladislao Mazurkiewicz—have been given permission to play in the Spanish league as "Spaniards" because of their family tree.

The situation finally became so ridiculous that in November Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad de San Sebastian took legal action to try to force the FEF (Real Federacion Espanola de Futbol) to clamp down.

Dubious

Some smart detective work provided them with three players whose background was at the least dubious: Real Madrid's Roberto Juan Martinez Martinez (signed during the summer after four years with Espanol), Betis's Eduardo Anzarda Alvarez (signed by Madrid from River Plate in 1971) and Malaga's Rodolfo Vilanova Rumano (signed from Huracan of Buenos Aires in 1971).

To add to the complexity Roberto is not only the league's top scorer this season, but played in the European Championship against Denmark and Scotland. Make the case stand up against him and Spain would be out of Europe—disqualified by two of their own clubs!

ROBERTO JUAN MARTINEZ MARTINEZ—centre of Spain's biggest sporting scandal of 1974.

Born Mendoza (Argentina), September 25, 1946.

Clubs: Huracan de Las Heras (Arg); Union Santa Fe (Colombia); Banfield (Arg); Espanol Barcelona (from 1971); Real Madrid (from July 1974).

Internationals: v. Greece (World Cup); v. Yugoslavia (World Cup); v. W. Germany (Friendly); v. Denmark (Euro. Champs.); v. Scotland (Euro. Champs.).

Married with two children. Degree in economics.

Martinez . . . controversy rages in Spain

Looking back it's ironic to recall an interview Roberto gave just before the Scotland game—his fifth cap.

"Things could hardly have gone better for me. To play for Real Madrid and the national team—what more could I ask? When I came to Spain four seasons ago I wanted to do well, but I never dreamed that it would all happen so quickly."

It was at this time that Jose Luis Perez Paya, the FEF president, announced that Marinho, Mazurkiewicz and a 25-year-old Argentinian named Juan Carlos Santiago Perrone were cleared to play in Spain. To my mind the very fact that Marinho and Mazurkiewicz had played for other countries should have been enough to bar them, but the FEF thought not.

Unknown

Perrone, too, was not quite unknown. Malaga had signed him in 1972, but the FEF refused to register him as a "Spaniard" because of irregularities in his documentation. Two years had obviously given him time to get his case right, and when he joined Tenerife he became the sixth South American on their books!

Malaga, meanwhile, had troubles enough with their *own orlando*, Vilanova, imposing a club record fine of £330 after he made a rude gesture to a previously uncomplimentary crowd when scoring against Cordoba.

And still they kept coming . . .

Alongside

Jimenez, an Independiente reserve, was cleared to play alongside former club colleague Miguel Angel Santoro with Hercules, and Murcia—after a brief struggle, admittedly — obtained permission to line up another "Argentinian," Juan Echecopar.

At the start of December, representatives of Bilbao and San Sebastian met to agree a common front against the invaders. As a first step they challenged the documentation relating to the Argentinian birth certificates of Juan Carlos Tourino and Roberto (both Madrid), Heraldo Becerra (Atletico Madrid), the Paraguayan Cos (Barcelona), Iselin Ovejero(Zaragoza, ex-Atletico), Anzarda and Vilanova.

'Atletico Bilbao started legal action to force a clampdown'

And these players were duly summoned to appear on December 11 in court *in camera* to go through their background details.

"No problems for me," said Becerra, on leaving the courtroom. "They asked where I was born and where my parents were born. I was born in San Jeronimo (Sao Paulo), my father is from Oviedo and my mother from Porto Alegre (Brazil). As I am the son of a Spaniard I have Spanish nationality. I have a Spanish passport. All very simple."

Roberto Martinez (left) in action for Real Madrid against Espanol de Barcelona, whose goalkeeper Bertomeu jumps to stop the ball.

The of its

Roger Davies of Derby County.

THE problem of pace is not simply a matter of whether a player has or has not got it. It is also a problem of definition, and a problem of orthodoxy. My own interest was engaged on last summer's tour of Europe, when Mike Channon, that lithe and fluent forward, remarked to me that without pace of some sort, a player was, at the highest level, finished. It put it, as it happened, a little more forcefully than that; but the point is made and taken.

Channon is a young man who not only plays the game superbly but thinks about it intelligently, so that his views were to be taken seriously. It was, in the first place, quite clear that without pace, a player of his own kind could not hope to succeed. It was also clear that, without pace, it would be very hard indeed to sop such a player.

Channon can, as he said in the same conversation, "hit the line" from either wing; can, as he also said, play as a winger". What perturbed me a little, though it perturbs me less now that I have talked to a wide spectrum of coaches, players and managers, was the possibility that a new orthodoxy was in prospect, one which excluded any player who did *not* have pace.

Where would that have left Bobby Moore who was, as Jimmy Hill—a great proponent of pace—admits, the player, *par excellence*, who became great despite the lack of pace. One thought, too, of Roger Davies, the Derby County centre-forward, a player one has long admired.

Davies has seemed to me, for some time, one of the most remarkable players in the Football League, and I still mourn the fact that he was unfit to play for Derby County a couple of seasons ago in that first leg European Cup semi-final against Juventus.

One of those late developers who confound their critics and encourage others of their kind, Davies perhaps had his finest match in a replayed F.A. Cup tie against Tottenham of White Hart Lane, when he scored, if I remember correctly, a hat-trick of extraordinary goals.

He has been stigmatised, even within his own club, as slow, and certainly he lacks explosive pace. Yet he is, for all that, an immensely effective player, an original, a big man with a long body and the astonishingly graceful touch of a circus elephant.

It is in and around the six yard box that he is at his best. In the first place, he is so strong that it is almost impossible to knock him off the ball. In the second place, his calm temperament and immaculate control allow him to create situations which the ordinary player could never contrive. Pace has nothing to do with this.

From a standing start, often with your back to the goal, how can you, in any event, hope to exploit it, even if you have it, when defenders are thick all around you? Davies has the skill to pick his way past them.

The exception which proves the rule, you will cry; and say the same of Bobby Moore. Perhaps you are right. The moral is still perfectly clear; exceptions must always be provided for.

Esteemed

One must not, however, proceed without some attempt to define pace. What is it? Even Mike Channon, in our initial formulation, concedes that there can be different kinds. As Jock Stein, the esteemed Celtic manager, remarked to me, "What *is* pace? Some can run fast but can't see things quickly some can see things quickly but can't run fast."

Quickness of thought is obviously of vast importance. The trouble with British football, for more years than one cares to remember, is that speed of movement, constant, biting physical challenge, has overshadowed thought and originality.

Don Revie, England's new manager, observed when I spoke to him on the subject that this is one of the greatest handicaps of England teams playing foreign opposition; that the game is some twenty-five per cent slower, though considerably more skilful, and that they are obliged to try to adjust their style of play.

Revie is also interesting on the subject of such players as Terry Cooper who, as he says, appear fast because of their splendid balance and control when coming forward, but in fact are illusory.

It is particularly significant that Johan Cruyff, whose pace is always being advanced as an argument by the supporters of speed,

problem pace...and definition

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

in fact is quite deprecatory about it. When I first met him, in 1970, he said that in fact he is no faster than anyone else, but merely appears to be because he times his acceleration better.

Was this not true of Stanley Matthews? It was often, and quite correctly, said of Matthews that his immense virtuosity lay not only in his amazing ball control, his ability to put opponents on the wrong foot with a swerve, but also to the speed with which he could leave them behind, once he had passed them.

Cliff Bastin used to say much the same of Alex James, the outstanding constructive British inside-forward of the 1930s, who was his partner in that remarkable Arsenal attack. James, he said, was one of the fastest players over ten yards that he had ever seen, though whether he could have lasted for a hundred was problematical!

Bobby Moore readily admits that he has never had much pace, but sensibly says that one must capitalise on one's strengths and cover one's weaknesses. When Moore was at his peak, it was customary for certain people in the game to try to whittle chips off him by stressing this vulnerability.

But as Moore himself says, no sensible defender will allow himself to get into a one-to-one position when a forward has twenty yards to play in: "even the quickest defender is liable to get caught."

Career

Moore's whole, distinguished career testifies to the validity of his theories. He was voted best player of the 1966 World Cup and in my view as the finest defender in Mexico in 1970. "You put yourself," as he says, "in the positions where you don't get exploited . . . But if everybody's going to put so much emphasis on the pace side of the game, where's it going to lead to? Some of our most talented, skilful players are not pacey players."

Ron Greenwood, Moore's mentor and manager at West Ham, believes, "You are a better player if you've got pace, but you don't really have to have it to be a good player. Moore never had pace, but he had pace of thought, which is more important. In the modern game, going forward, you've got to have pace. Keith Robson has got it, Jennings has got it, but that's not just enough."

Danny Blanchflower, never himself a quick player, though a wonderfully good one, emphasises the importance of stamina, which he did possess. He might not be able to run as fast as Cliff Jones, the Welsh international winger but he could be up there beside him when he was wanted.

Jimmy Hill properly emphasises the change in defensive methods; it is not a question, now, of having one man to beat, but two, three or more, while the modern European defender is immensely skilful in "rolling with you".

Bobby Campbell, the Arsenal coach, is one of those who is insistent about the importance of Cruyff's pace—where Cruyff is not! and asserts, "You can't be a world class player without pace."

Well, our players do have pace, but how many of them are world class players? By the same token, who would deny that Wim Van Hanegem is a world class player, despite the fact that he can be deliberate to the point of occasional stasis?

The problem is a prolix one, defying easy answers, but at least it is good to see that some of our major managers are prepared to keep an open mind.

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Turkey 2, Switzerland 1
Hungary 1, Switzerland 0
East Germany 0, Belgium 0
Greece 2, Bulgaria 1
Malta 0, West Germany 1
Italy 0, Bulgaria 0

Turkey 2, Switzerland 1
Hungary 1, Switzerland 0

SINCE Rene Hussy took over the Swiss national team for his second stint—he had a brief period in charge for only two games back in 1970—the biggest success prior to the 3-0 drubbing of Portugal was a 1-0 win at home over Scotland. These last two results made Hussy's record even grimmer, with one draw and seven defeats in 11 games.

Clearly the 3-0 win over Portugal can now be attributed largely to the Portuguese decision to play specially for the benefit of England manager Don Revie, misleading him into thinking that his date with Portugal a week later was going to be a doddle. But as the Swiss have now discovered for themselves they were caught without an adequate midfield at a time when this has never been more important in the game.

Kobi Kuhn and Karl Odermatt have been the Swiss heroes in this department for more years than they care to remember but as so often happens when the time comes to replace veteran warriors, replacements are not so easy to find. In particular it seems clear that the 28-year-old FC Zurich star Rene Botteron, said to be wanted by Ajax, is not yet ready to take over the responsibilities shouldered for so long by Jakob Kuhn.

Defensive

At Izmir, Kurt Muller put the Swiss ahead early in the game—just the start they needed for their first competitive game since failing to qualify for the last World Cup, but Osman levelled the scores midway through the first half and though the Swiss, went defensive in the later stages desperately trying to hang on to a precious away point, Mehmet grabbed a winning goal with only five minutes remaining for play.

On the way home, the Swiss played a friendly match against Hungary at Szolnok and before a 20,000 crowd only a penalty, benevolently awarded by Austrian referee Adolf Mathias, separated two of Europe's struggling teams.

Ferenc Bene was recalled by Hungary for his 74th cap—hardly a progressive step unless one considers that Bene's influence and inspiration may help the less experienced Hungarian players — and Tatahanya's Karoly Csapo got his first cap.

The game was slow and generally dull with Hungary having slightly the better of the game. Bene was replaced late in the game but by then the issue had virtually been settled for the Swiss never really looked like equalising after Fazekas put away the penalty, awarded controversially against Jean-Yves Valentini who according to most neutral observers appeared to fall accidentally inside the area and by accident touched the ball with his hand.

Turkey (1) 2 (Ismail, Buyuk Mehmet)
Switzerland (1) 1 (Schild)

Turkey: Yasin; Alpaslan, Ismail, Ziya Zakediya, Kucuk Mehmet, Selcuk (Basit), Engin Osman (Buyuk Mehmet), Cemil, Metin.
Switzerland: Burgener; Hasler, Guyot, Bizzini, Botteron, Schild, Kuhn, Schneeberger, Pfister (Rutschmann), Jeandupeux, Muller.

Hungary (1) 1 (Fazekas, pen.)
Switzerland (0) 0

Hungary: Meszaros; Torok, Nagy (J), Horvath, Toth (J), Halmosi (Kular), Csapo (Kiss), Dunai (I), Fazekas, Bene (Mate), Nagy (L).
Switzerland: Kung; Valaentini, Kuhn, Bizzini, Botteron, Schild, Hasler, Schneeberger, Pfister, Muller (Jeandupeux), Risi.

East Germany 0, Belgium 0

GEORG Buschner, the DDR boss and hero of the World Cup, was recently awarded a high honour by the state presumably for the DDR's internationally prestigious 1-0 win during the World Cup over West Germany.

Currently, however, Herr Buschner is receiving more criticism than praise and after three drawn games counting for the European championship (particularly the 1-1 stalemate against little Iceland) it now looks as if the DDR might not qualify for the European championship.

Belgium have to attack and get goals in their home game against the DDR. That might well prove more difficult for their boss Raymond Goethals proved in the World Cup against Holland that he'd rather be an unbeaten also-ran, than stake his reputation on attack.

The captains in this game watched by 35,000 in Leipzig were Eberhard Vogel (earning his 66th cap and Paul Van Himst who boosted his tally to 81 with an appearance that was limited to the first quarter of an hour after which Anderlecht club mate Van der Elst replaced him.

The DDR lined up with a 1-3-3-3 formation but with the new emphasis on hard men rather than skill in midfield that will probably lead to Buschner's undoing if he doesn't soon realise that class and skill have a vital place in midfield.

Intelligent

To his credit, Buschner brought on Hans-Jurgen Kreische for left back Siegmar Watzlich, Kreische being a skilful and intelligent player with little interest in defence, but with the visitors having no right winger it is significant that it was only 20 minutes from the end that the DDR boss decided to gamble.

Goethals, on the other hand, played blatantly for a draw with a 1-3-4-2 line up. As was to be expected, the East Germans dominated the play and should have won had not a combination of bad luck, poor finishing and the performance of Christian Piot in the Belgian goal, who made two great saves from close range shots to hold a vital away point.

East Germany won 11-1 on corners—Vogel missed a great chance from close range and on another rare occasion when a ball completely evaded the Belgian defence neither Vogel who threw himself at it or Konrad Weise who was also un-marked beyond him could get a touch to it.

East Germany (0) 0
Belgium (0) 0

East Germany: Croy; Dorner, Kische, Weise, Watzlich (Kreische), Hafner, Lauck, Kurbjuweit, Hoffmann, Streich, Vogel.
Belgium: Piot; Broos, Van Binst, Van den Daele, Martens, Verheyen, Devalque, Van Himst (Van der Elst), Cools, Lambert, Teugels.

Greece 2, Bulgaria 1

FOLLOWING their morale boosting 2-2 draw against West Germany the Greeks took on neighbouring Bulgaria and stepped to the top of their qualifying group. It seems unlikely that they can stay there against the World Cup holders but two draws and this win indicate that the Greek game has made a big improvement in recent years.

Certainly the visiting Bulgarians seem to be unable to find goal-getters though Georgi Denev is energetic enough. New team manager Stojan Ormandiev is dogged by

defeats for Swiss boss

the same set of headaches as his predecessors who though they have qualified for every World Cup since their break-through in the 1962 series are still a long way short of top class.

Though the Bulgarians have stepped up in the World ratings, this defeat was the first defeat against their southern neighbours for 40 years!

More than 30,000 saw the game with Greece retaining their veteran striker Mimis Papaioannou until late in the game but without their other experienced star the midfield general Dimitrios Domazos who was injured.

The Greeks dominated the first half, clearly more eager to push people forward than the visitors and took an early lead after only four minutes. Papaioannou was fouled and from the free kick Sarafis headed home.

With five minutes left before the break one of many Greek attacks led to the second and probably critical goal scored by the gangling Panathinaikos centre forward Antoniadis following a move set up by Elefterakis and Aslanidis.

For the second half it seemed that the Greeks were prepared to withdraw and let Bulgaria force the pace. Though the Bulgarians went close on several occasions their only reward was a consolation goal by Kolev two minutes from time who scored from a ball laid on by Denev. Once more the Bulgarians played with two right wingers Voinov in the first half and Zvetkov in the second and they also continued the practice of swapping centre forwards too. Clearly Ormandiev has a long way to go and one wonders if he really has the material available to solve his problems.

Greece (2) 2 (Sarafis, Antoniadis)
Bulgaria (0) 1 (Kolev)

Greece: Konstantinou; Elefteriadis, Siokos Glezos, Pallas, Terzalidis, Elefterakis, Sarafis Aslanidis, Antoniadis, Papaioannou (Kiratsas).
Bulgaria: Filipov; Vassilev, Aladjov, Kolev, Ivkov, Flanke, Christov (Svetkov), Boney, Voinov Anghelov), Denev, Kourbanov.

Malta 0, West Germany 1

THE World champions were more depleted than ever for the testing visit to Malta where in theory they should have rattled up a good win. But modern tactics have now caught on so effectively that even the real small fish can do a reasonable job of closing the shop against the giants.

This time, however, the Germans made a contribution to their stuttering, stumbling narrow win. It's no use blaming Helmut Schon for this one either—he wasn't there through an operation and his assistant Jupp Derwall stood in.

Franz Beckenbauer was the German hero, almost back to his arrogant, graceful best. but forced to rebuild, time is against the Germans if they are to retain the European championship. Certainly they have more problems than answers now after disappointing performances in Greece and now Malta.

The German problems lie in midfield and attack for the Koln pair Bernd Cullmann and Heinz Flohe haven't the class of Netzer or the experience of Overath and up front though Bernd Holzenbein looked happier on the left wing than he does in the middle.

Inexperienced

On paper it was an inexperienced side the Germans fielded with left back Bernhard Dietz; new stopper Karl-Heinz Korbel, and centre forward Erwin Kostedde (who made his name first in Belgium with Standard Liege) getting their first caps.

On the right wing the Kaiserslautern dribbler Josef Pirrung got his second cap; produced flashes of his dribbling skill but showed too that he lacks the courage that ball players need today. For the second half another newcomer, Bernd Nickel of Eintracht Frankfurt replaced Pirrung.

Clearly this was a game that the Germans could afford to experiment in, though in retrospect they may have been wiser to have waited for their home game. As it was they just scrambled two points with a headed goal by Bernd Cullmann a minute before the interval.

Malta (0) 0
West Germany (1) 1 (Cullmann)

Malta: Debono, Borg, Holland, Darmanin, Vella, R. Xuereb, Vassallo, E. Aquilina (R. Aquilina), Mango, Camilleri, Seychell.
West Germany: Nigbur; Vogts, Beckenbauer, Korbel, Dietz, Bonhof, Flohe, Cullmann (Seliger), Pirrung (Nickel), Kostedde, Holzenbein.

Italy 0, Bulgaria 0

THE prospects for Italy and their new boss Dr. Fulvio Bernardini are no brighter now than they were at the start of the season. One can understand his refusal to bring back Gianni Rivera and with Luigi Riva unfit the critics can rightly argue that Sandro Mazzola could be used to help new players settle.

Certainly centre forward Roberto Boninsegna (apparently one of Bernardini's favourites) and Luciano Chiarugi recalled after several years as an outcast are near veterans.

Bulgaria made wholesale changes, playing for the first time in years without Boney and Kolev in midfield but the Italians playing at home in Genoa for the first time since the World Cup were unable to penetrate a very experimental defence. They had chances and were ably assisted by an Italian referee after the Spanish referee was held up at Madrid airport. He turned a blind eye to many things, including a string of fouls by Boninsegna who had a running battle with almost the entire Bulgarian defence.

Italy had their chances despite a cumbersome build-up from midfield. The new organising trio Furino, Causio and Antognoni were too slow and deliberate in everything they did. Franco Causio in particular lacked purpose, satisfied it seemed dribbling and looking good to no purpose.

Caution

It turned out to be a rare fight for an alleged friendly match with a string of nasty fouls, two Bulgarians carried off and nothing more serious than a caution for Boninsegna.

Clearly the Italians need a new team, but like England and many other sides,' their national team is a reflection of what goes on every week-end in their First Division. Players cannot change their ideas overnight and only time will tell whether Bernardini can work his ideas out in practice.

Unfortunately for him after two defeats and one draw it becomes increasingly unlikely that he will keep the job long enough for anyone to find out.

Italy (0) 0
Bulgaria (0) 0

Italy: Zoff, Rocca, Martini, Furino (Guerini), Zecchini, Santoini, Damiani, Causio (Re Cecconi), Boninsegna, Antognoni, Chiarugi.
Bulgaria: Filipov; Vassilev, Marev, Dimitrov, Rangelov, Kostov (Eftimov), Kourbanov, Issakidis, Gorunov (Gelankov), Anghelov, Tzekov (Voinov).

Continued next month

KEIR RADNEDGE features two contrasting characters in Europe

Ducke—t Varga—t

PETER Ducke and Zoltan Varga could hardly be more contrasting characters. The first a dependable one-club man, the other a Hungarian exile whose wanderlust has taken him a long way around Europe.

But one thing they do have in common in the Germanys separated by a common border and a surfeit of political differences: they are making headlines, Ducke in East Germany, Varga in West Germany.

Ducke, for example, has recently made goalscoring history. The 33-year-old Carl Zeiss centre forward kept the Jena club at the top of the first division with two fine goals in a 3-1 home win against Dynamo Dresden, champions in 1973. And those goals turned Ducke into the East German league's all-time record scorer.

The man who seemed to run out of steam —sadly—just before the World Cup Finals, has 143 goals to his credit, two more than the previous top scorer, Gunter Schroter whose record had stood for nearly 12 years.

Jena, eliminated from the Cup Winners Cup on away goals by Benfica, were then one point clear of champions Magdeburg, who have been badly hit by injuries to three of their internationals: Jurgen Pommerenke and Axel Tyll, both only 21, and Jurgen Sparwasser, the 26-year-old who scored the goal which beat West Germany.

After eight games without finding the net, those goals clearly couldn't have come at a better time for Ducke, nicknamed "Black Peter" because of his quick temper which landed him in plenty of trouble early in his career.

Ducke joined Jena—then called Motor Jena—in 1959, and made his international debut that year too. It was the first of 63 caps, which have seen Ducke score 14 goals, and twice recover from a broken leg —first in 1966, and then three years later.

That first international was a 3-2 victory over Rumania in Leipzig, yet for all his prowess Ducke has only once been the league's top scorer in a season, and that was when he hit 20 in 1963.

Yet that is a better record than Schroter who, despite playing 321 games for Dynamo Berlin between 1950 and his retirement in 1963, was never the league's best scorer except when it came to his career total of 141.

Schroter played inside right for East Germany in their first-ever international—a 3-0 defeat against Poland in Warsaw on September 21, 1952—and was still in the national team when the young Ducke (Dare I say "fledgling"?) made his debut.

Schroter played in 39 internationals altogether, scoring 13 times, while Ducke now holds the East German record with his 63, which included two appearances as substitute during the World Cup Finals.

Ducke was East Germany's Sportsman of the Year in 1965 and Footballer of the Year in 1971, and in addition is an Honoured Master of Sport.

About a year ago, however, he let it be known that he was contemplating retire-

Brazil top the 1974 charts

from Eric Weil in Buenos Aires

INTERNATIONAL activity between South American national teams was almost entirely confined to World Cup and pre-World Cup warm-up games by the four finalists—Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile. In fact only one other country, Paraguay, played a match and this was a pre-World Cup friendly in Brazil which they lost 2-0.

There is no doubt that Brazil are still top dogs on the continent—not only because the enclosed table shows them to have the best record during 1974 and because they did better than the others in the World Cup, reaching fourth place. Brazil also met Argentina, their closest challengers, on neutral ground—in the World Cup in West Germany—and ran out deserved 2-1 winners.

South American countries played in 20 World Cup and 21 other full international matches during 1974, but most of the latter were pre-World Cup warm-up matches not to be taken too seriously. Even if most of these matches were played away—except by Brazil—they were against hand-picked opponents likely not to offer too much resistence—such as Haiti (5 matches), Republic of Ireland (3), Romania (2), etc.

And, of course, there was Uruguay's 2-0 defeat against Australia which rocked the soccer world.

All in all it was a poor year for South American soccer at national team level—apart from their poor World Cup showing.

Only one of the "annual" cups was played for—the Dittborn Cup between Chile and Argentina—which the latter country retained with a 2-0 win in Santiago and a 1-1 draw at home.

There are plans to re-start the South American Nations Championship in 1975 which has not been held since 1967 (in Montevideo) when Uruguay won it.

The South American Football Confederation, meeting in Rio de Janeiro in December, decided that for the first time the tournamenent would not be played all in one country, but on the lines of the European championship in preliminary groups (with home and away matches and they made the following preliminary group draw:

Group 1—Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela.
Group 2—Paraguay, Ecuador, Colombia.
Group 3—Chile, Bolivia, Peru.

The three group winners will then play in a final round with champions Uruguay.

This should make for more international activity in South America during 1975 in what is usually a "dead" year—the one immediately after the World Cup finals.

Meanwhile Paraguay is hoping to stage the first World Cup finals of the 21st century—in 2002. The Paraguayan Football League said it was confident that "within 28 years this country will be able to organise a sporting event of this magnitude."

RECORDS OF SOUTH AMERICAN TEAMS DURING 1974

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	?
Brazil	16	6	3	—	13	2	3	2	2	6	4	9	5	2	19	6	12
Argentina	10	1	2	—	4	5	2	2	3	11	12	3	4	3	15	15	50
Uruguay	9	1	—	—	2	0	2	3	3	5	10	3	3	3	7	10	50
Chile	8	—	—	2	1	4	1	4	1	3	3	1	4	3	4	7	37
Paraguay	1	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	

he loyalist... he wanderer!

ment, so it does seem that there is one record he will not surpass.

Though he has played in more than 350 league games he is still a hundred behind the record set by Sachsenring Zwickau's Alois Glaubitz. Even so, Ducke is by now in second place, just ahead of elder brother Roland, also an international, who played 341 times in the league for Jena.

Alas, such records will never come within the reach of Varga—30 on New Year's Day—and who has lately been on the run again.

Varga, an inside forward with deft but fragile skills, won 14 caps for Hungary before defecting to the West during the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

Now, after spells with Hertha West Berlin, Aberdeen and Ajax he has joined Borussia Dortmund, the West German second division club.

Varga left Hertha under a cloud after being found guilty of accepting bribes. He was banned from West Germany for three years—a sentence reduced on appeal—and in November 1972 Aberdeen paid £30,000 for him.

Sumptuous

He had an electric effect on Scottish soccer, playing 26 games, scoring ten goals and lifting Aberdeen to fourth in the table before joining Ajax, then European Champions, in the summer of 1973.

But though he lived like a prince, buying the sumptuous home once owned by Rinus Michels, he was only a reserve and that wasn't good enough.

"You can have all that—the conditions, and the money and our home were tremendous. But that doesn't mean anything if they won't let you play," complained Varga.

Borussia trainer Otto Knefler heard of his plight and asked if Ajax would lend him to Dortmund for the rest of this season. Ajax boss Hans Kruay, the former Feyenoord centre-back, agreed, but the West German FA refused to sanction the loan.

That was a blow for Dortmund, until Knefler, persistency personified, went back to Ajax and negotiated a full transfer—for £14,000, a lot of money for Dortmund, whose fortunes have slumped since they beat Liverpool to win the Cup Winners' Cup final in 1966.

Yet more than 2,000 fans turned up for his first training session and more than 41,000 packed the Westfalen stadium for his first league match in which Dortmund beat DJK Gutersloh 2-1 to maintain their challenge at the top of the second division's north section.

His form in his early matches has delighted Knefler.

"Varga has proved good business," he said. "The man pulls the crowds like a magician and has already repaid the fee three times over. I'm glad I took the chance. It was a risk though and if it hadn't worked out I'd really have been slated."

And Knefler's ambitions for Varga?

"Zoltan will play for us the kind of role Hidegkuti took in the great Hungarian team. It will take two or three years before everything settles down. I hope the fans don't expect too much too quickly."

While Varga was with Aberdeen he had some antagonistic comments to make about soccer in West Germany.

"I get a lot of stick here in Scotland," he said at the time," but it's not nearly as bad as in West Germany. They would follow me into the toilet if they had the chance, the marking is so tight there.

"Their soccer is based on discipline and dedication but there is a limit to everything. Individuals have a much better time in Scotland."

Varga's basic problem was that he has yet to find anywhere where he can enjoy his football as he did with Ferencvaros in Hungary.

Scotland obviously wasn't ideal for him, his face didn't fit at Ajax, so now he's back where the tackling is tougher, apparently, but where the money and the satisfaction of playing may prove to be greater.

"I will do everything not to disappoint Knefler," said Varga. "I'm grateful that Dortmund have given me this chance. In the last four years we've spent Christmas in a different country every time. That can't go on. My daughter Katalyn is school age now and can go to school here. Eniko, my son, can learn German as a second language too."

Varga is still trying to make a career, while Peter Ducke, three years his senior, can look back on a most distinguished spell at the top. Clearly, loyalty does have its points.

Internal strife affects Bayern as Lattek goes

Report from ARTHUR ROTMIL

AS REPORTED in WORLD SOCCER last month, Udo Lattek has finally left Bayern Munich after weeks of rumour. At one time he looked as though he might serve out his contract—until June 1976 in fact—but then came the news that he was to leave immediately.

Who will take his place? As we went to Press there was news that Dettmar Cramer, a FIFA coach for seven years and currently in charge of the United States' Olympic squad, was to take over. It was reported that Bayern officials had contacted Mr Cramer in Israel, where he was touring, and that he was travelling to Munich for talks, with a view to joining the European and West German champions as soon as possible.

Amid the wild rumours, widespread speculations and denials, one fact has emerged that cannot be refuted: Bayern have hit a slump which has turned the pride of Germany into the most erratic team in the *Bundesliga*. But it is not just a playing crisis, for it stems from mistakes made at higher managerial level which influenced the running of the side and are causing unrest among the players.

Internal

Barely half a year after Bayern have completed the glorious "double" of championship and European Cup, and with five men who won the World Cup for Germany, they are rocked by internal strife unprecedented within a club still basking in glory. The disclosure that coach Lattek might be leaving the club at the end of the season, has only added to the confusion.

Bayern's president Wilhelm Neudecker has spent a fortune on buying new players to strengthen the squad, but it appears that even stars like Conny Torstensson of Sweden or Klaus Wunder have become quite ordinary players once they've donned the famous red shirts. Neudecker moans: "No matter who I buy, players who looked great with other clubs seem to lose their form and sparkle with us."

The big boss has rejected captain Beckenbauer's suggestion to engage a top schemer like Heinz Flohe (Cologne), for instance, by saying: "I have invested enough money, the coach must use the available men." Neudecker also refutes accusations from outsiders, that there is a "Mafia" within Bayern which aims to protect the old established stars from the competition of new faces. "It is up to the team coach to impose his authority on the squad," explains the powerful president, who in tricky situations likes to delegate the responsibility.

Blunder

It is now clear, that the departure of Paul Breitner (to Real Madrid) has left a gap on the left flank of the defence which even the international Jupp Kapellmann cannot fill. Bayern's chronic weakness, the lack of penetrating wingers, has still not been cured. But the biggest blunder the management has committed was the organisation of an absurdly overcharged programme of friendly matches preceding the championship. In the space of 26 days, Bayern played 19 games!

No wonder that well before the half way stage in the *Bundesliga* most of the Munich men looked jaded and listless. The five "World Champions" too, had had no break to speak of since the World Cup final and are now suffering from a surfeit of football. But president Neudecker and the Technical Director Robert Schwan point out that in order to pay the excessively high salaries and bonuses, through which they keep their best players happy in Munich, the club must undertake as many engagements as possible outside the scheduled domestic programme. Bayern estimate that it costs them £110,000 a month to keep the club going!

Many experts suspect that the internal problems are the work of some of the senior players who have become too influential. Another example of "player power?" Certainly, it is unfair to blame everything on coach Udo Lattek, who after all has led the club since taking charge in 1970 to its greatest triumphs.

Nevertheless, he was regarded as a scapegoat for Bayern's recent poor performances which reached their climax after the 3-0 defeat at Bochum. A "summit" conference took place in Neudecker's sumptuous penthouse, in which the management as well as Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Muller representing the playing staff decided after a three-hour discussion to accept Lattek's resignation.

Critical

There is little doubt that Herr Neudecker has retracted some of the critical comments he had made about his coach and sounded a diplomatic retreat in the interests of the club, who may have lost their chance of keeping their title, but who are still among the favourites to retain the European Cup having reached the quarter-final. Neudecker is now seeking cooperation and not confrontation!

Whilst the bosses refused to enlarge on their declared intention to work together in harmony, Beckenbauer and Muller expressed the view that it wasn't Lattek's fault the team were playing so badly. The most telling product of the recent discussions was the decision to cancel a lengthy tour during the short winter break.

Two games

Instead, Bayern gave their tired players 10 days leave over the holidays. They restarted training on December 31, and followed up with two games in Japan against the national team. Finally the players were gathered in the "adidas" Sport-hotel in Herzogenaurach for a week's preparation before the second half of the Bundesliga programme.

In the most exciting championship campaign for years, the leadership has been changing so often that it is now more difficult than ever to predict the ultimate winner. The big favourites like Bayern, Borussia Monchengladbach or Cologne have all made an indifferent start and this has let in some less fashionable sides like Kickers Offenbach, Eintracht Brunswick and the surprise team of the season Hertha Berlin.

The rise of the Berlin outfit has been quite phenomenal when one recalls that they lost most of their players just over two years ago, following the bribery scandals. Now under the guidance of the former manager to the Dutch national team (from 1964 till 1970) Georg Kessler, the new Hertha is making a strong challenge for their first Bundesliga title.

Hertha have been champions of Germany in 1930 and 1931. The team has a fine

Udo Lattek pictured with the Bayern Munich team after their European Cup victory last year.

defence, with the centre backs Ludwig Muller (previously with Borussia M.G.) and the giant Uwe Kliemann (ex Frankfurt) among the best in the country.

There are in fact voices demanding the call up of the 6 foot 5 inch Kliemann to the national side. Up front Hertha rely on the veteran Lorenz Horr and the Swiss international striker Kudi Muller. The Berliners have shown that they can beat even the best in the land, but whether they can sustain their effort is of course another matter.

Newly promoted Eintracht Brunswick, the 1967 champions, are also making great strides towards repeating that triumph, now under the leadership of the Yugoslav-born Branco Zebec, who in his time successfully managed Bayern Munich and VfB Stuttgart. Brunswick have found in the former Bayern striker Bernd Gersdorff a prolific goal scorer, whilst international 'keeper Bernd Franke remains among the most reliable custodians in the Bundesliga.

Kickers Offenbach are prompted by the veteran World Cup star Sigi Held, now playing as well as ever, and recently recalled to the national squad. Even more delighted is Offenbach's centre forward Erwin Kostedde.

This son of an American negro G.I. and a German mother, became the first coloured player to be capped by Germany in football. Kostedde at 28 is certainly not a new discovery, but he has spent a few years abroad playing with great distinction for the top Belgian club Standard Liege, before joining Kickers in 1971.

Among the leaders are also Hamburger SV, still going strong in the UEFA Cup in which they reached the quarter-finals together with Borussia Monchengladbach and Cologne. Borussia have been showing constant improvement after an early struggle against a crop of injuries and the loss of World Cup star Rainer Bonhof, who was suspended for eight weeks after being sent off for a relatively mild foul.

But then the German Football Federation are known to be severe. The former international centre back Klaus Fichtel and Wuppertal's Antal Nagy were banned for ten weeks after being given marching orders for fighting.

The national side ended the year with a meagre 1-0 away win over Malta in a European Championship tie. Astonishingly though, only four members of the World Cup winning side were chosen: Beckenbauer, Vogts, Bonhof and Holzenbein. For the Germans took a bold gamble and, including the substitutes, they fielded five new caps: defenders Bernhard Dietz 26, (MSV Duisburg) and Karl-Heinz Korbel 20 (Eintracht Frankfurt), centre forward Erwin Kostedde 28 (Offenbach), plus Bernd Nickel 25 (Eintracht Frankfurt) and Rudi Seliger 23 (MSV Duisburg), who came on for Pirrung and Cullmann respectively, in the second half.

For the first time in ten years the national team was not managed by Helmut Schon, who was recovering from a knee operation. In his absence his assistant Jupp Derwall took charge. On that dreadful pitch at La Valetta, where England also scraped just a 1-0 win three years ago, the Germans struggled to find rhythm against totally defensive minded opponents and to master the tricky conditions. The winning goal was scored by Bernd Cullmann in the 44th minute.

Next assignment is a friendly on March 12, against England at Wembley!

ERIC THORNTON'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

IT'S VERY tough for most of us in one way or another, just now, and that applies with particular force to the Blackpool Football Club, whose great days of plenty faded so long ago that today's teenagers do not easily accept the long playing record of its historical background.

The Golden Mile seems almost a mockery to the soccer folk on the land side of British Rail's excursion route into Europe's fantastic capital of leisure and pleasure, and the old tower now frowns down on an unhappy headquarters which once boasted several world figures, and a coterie of personalities.

Badly needing cash right from the start of this season, match results have unexpectedly torpedoed many of their brightest hopes. There have been too many wrong scores. Time and again the team has unexpectedly slipped in the promotion battle after injuries have forced changes, and they've been kicked out of the F.A. Cup by Third Division Plymouth Argyle—shaped by their former goalkeeping star Tony Waiters!

These kind of happenings hardly assist campaigns to win back lost fans, and, understandably, the financial position has gradually become worse. Receipts have dived. Crowds have thinned. Never too well supported, they did, nevertheless, manage to average around 25,000 at one period. Now however, if 15,000 roll up officials think someone's having a party.

Today, the Bloomfield Road ground which accommodated nearly 40,000 for a summit battle with Wolves, when Blackpool finished runners-up in the First Division, two decades ago, mostly depresses the oldtimers with its acres of empty seats, and open spaces on the terraces.

The millions still make for The Fylde, and are always there for the opening and closing weeks of each new campaign, but few take off time for the games. And that has also to be said of the turn-of-the-year revellers. They used to queue for the holiday fixtures. Not now.

Too many have lost interest, obviously forgetting that big soccer needs big money to maintain. A crowd of 4,900 can hardly be classified as necessary support. Yet that's all there were for a recent home match. Again, it was only 7,000 the next time round. And so it goes on.

Which probably explains why such as Alan Ball, Gordon West, Mickey Burns, Tommy Hutchison, Tony Green, Emlyn Hughes and all the others had to be sold. There were bills to be met, future commit-

Blackpool manager Harry Potts.

CARD

WALES is split down the middle over the planning of its future international schedules, and it seems as if there will be an unholy rumpus between the rival factions before everything is eventually ironed out.

It's all traceable to an archaic system that has annually decreed the playing of all big games at Cardiff, and nowhere else, with the rest of the programme being shared out rather loosely among other venues.

For more years that even the oldest inhabitants can remember, Ninian Park has been blessed with all the crowd-pulling fixtures, and without so much as a twitter of protest from anyone.

Gradually, however, other lines of thought have developed until, today, the beautiful unanimity of the Welsh Council room has been shattered by a group which is becoming bitterly opposed to any further favouritism.

Campaign

They want the claims of North Wales to be fully recognised, and are not prepared to be fobbed off with make-weight stuff any longer. So a three-point campaign is being mounted, and it's difficult to imagine how the opponents in soccer's Corridors of Power can do anything but fight losing rearguard actions.

Point One spotlights increasing apathy in the counties of Glamorgan, Gwent, Powys and Dyfed, and, conversely, rising enthusiasm in the northern areas of Clwyd

Great days fade at Blackpool

ments to be considered, and a bank manager to be consoled.

I knew the better days. The wonderful days of Stan Matthews, Stan Mortensen, Bill Perry, Harry Johnston, George Farm, Jackie Mudie, Allan Brown, Ernie Taylor, Jimmy Armfield and Tom Garrett. That was when late arrivals at the ground were lucky to nab a seat.

It was the time in history when Mortie, quicksilver member of the England attack along with the other Stan, used to stroll whistling into the dressing room, slap his chest, give the thumbs up, and say: "Never fear, Mortie's here". It always raised a laugh with a happy, confident team playing in front of packed houses.

Those were the immediate post-war years with the Lancashire outfit's future being moulded by chairman Harry Evans, of great memory and friendliness, and manager Joe Smith, one of the most likeable characters of the sporting world right up to the sad moment of his departure.

He had hauled them out of the Second Division in 1937, kept them in the top circle throughout his reign, and, going to Wembley twice in the 50's, had the tremendous pleasure of watching his boys lift the Cup for the first time at the expense of Bolton Wanderers.

Created

Remember it? The year was 1953, when Nat Lofthouse was voted Footballer of he Year, though, actually, Matthews was the big man, and the final became known as "The Matthews final". Because he created the scoring chances for Mortensen and Perry.

Now, Harry Potts, Burnley boss for over 12 years, and before that a well known figure with Everton, has taken over, and pledged himself the tremendous task of guiding the Seasiders back into Division One, from which they've fallen three times.

There's not much money available for maneouvre in the transfer market, so it's largely once again a case of home production, just as it always was in the olden days over the top at Turf Moor.

Ever an optimist, as all managers have to be, Potts is never a moaner about injuries but is hoping they'll get better breaks, especially than they did last winter just when it seemed they might have carried off the promotion prize. He's crossing his fingers . . .

IFF OR WREXHAM IN THE FUTURE?

and Gwynedd, particularly along the coast and Deeside, and down to Wrexham and the border towns.

Point Two emphasises the dwindling cash returns at Cardiff, where a mere 7,000 paid to watch the European Nations Cup clash with Hungary, while 80,000 were at Wembley, over 50,000 cheering Scotland at Hampden, and 35,000 at the Dublin game.

Point Three wins the vote with an argument on accommodation. For since Wrexham's record crowd attendance of 35,000 was established in a cup tie with Manchester United 18 years ago, the entire Racecourse ground has been remodelled into one of the best in the four Home countries.

New stands have been erected—the new Yale Stand cost almost £100,000—and they now provide more seating than is available at Cardiff, Swansea or anywhere else in the Principality, while that old line concerning lack of hotels doesn't hold water any more because so many have been opened in the immediate area.

Two men are leading the battle for top international allocation for Wrexham—Mr Arthur Barritt, 19 years a member of the Welsh FA Council and former chairman of the selectors, and fellow councillor Mr Elfed Ellis.

And it's not merely in terms of an Irish visit they are thinking. They are going for *THE* game—the international championship affair with England, then probably Scotland. Games they reckon would be automatic sell-outs.

Bordering

Actually, they should be when you weigh up all the pros and cons because, after all, Wrexham has the additional advantage of bordering the great Manchester and Liverpool conurbations which together embrace nearly four million people.

Mr Barritt, formerly secretary/manager of Blackburn Rovers, ex-Wrexham director, Coast president and Welsh League chairman, says: "We've been fighting hard for the switching of the principal internationals, and used to be beaten on points about crowd and hotel accommodation, but not now."

"Today, we are better place at Wrexham than any other centre in the country both for crowds and receipts and we simply cannot afford to ignore the claims of the enthusiastic north any longer."

Mr Ellis wants all North Walians to "start beating the drum" for the switching of the England game from an area where rugger has taken over, and says: "We in the north have been starved too long of the best fixtures."

He adds: "We shall all have to keep on shouting and pressing the north's claim so that there will be a chance of England appearing at The Racecourse in 1976, instead of at Ninian."

Council members from Glamorgan and other parts of the south will fight against the idea to the last breath, but support for Messrs Barritt and Ellis is growing steadily, and I have an idea that they'll get their way in the end. I hope so.

Dateline Diary . . . Dateline Diary . . .

Spanish order enquiry, Vasovic joins SCO Angers

DECEMBER 16

BUENOS AIRES: FIFA President Joao Havelange reaffirmed that Argentina would host the 1978 World Cup. Argentina secretary of state for sports Pedro Vazquez assured Havelange that the Peronist government had given its full support to the World Cup project.

DECEMBER 17

ZURICH: FIFA said it was not in favour of the immediate abolition of off-side at free-kicks but suggested that the changed rule could be tried in more experimental matches.

DECEMBER 18

ATHENS: Greece established a clear lead in Group Eight of the European Championship by beating Bulgaria 2-1. Sarafis and Antoniadis gave them an interval lead and the Bulgarians only reduced the leeway two minutes from time through Kolev.

DECEMBER 19

MILAN: The Italian Football Federation banned Napoli for three home matches and fined them £350 after disturbances in the match with Juventus abandoned 90 seconds from the end with the visitors leading 6-2. A missile hit a linesman and was said to have been organised by disgruntled ticket touts who were prevented from buying tickets direct from the club.

DECEMBER 20

MADRID: The Spanish Football Federation decided to open an inquiry into the nationality of Real Madrid and Spanish international striker Roberto Martinez. The inquiry follows a claim by the Basque club Real Sociedad that Real have exceeded the permitted quota of two foreigners by fielding Martinez as well as West Germans Paul Breitner and Gunter Netzer.

DECEMBER 22

ANGERS: Bottom of the French First Division SCO Angers have appointed Velibor Vasovic former Yugoslavian international half-back as trainer. Vasovic played for Partizan Belgrade in the 1966 European Cup Final and for Ajax in the 1971 version.

VALETTA: West Germany beat Malta 1-0 in their European Championship game with a goal by Cullman two minutes from half-time. The Germans are now second in Group Eight.

DECEMBER 24

NANTES: Polish World Cup winger Roberto Gadocha is expected to sign for Nantes the French First Division club.

DECEMBER 28

MUNICH: Bayern Munich and West German World Cup midfield star Uli Hoeness is to have a hernia operation and will be out of action for at least six weeks.

MOSCOW: Oleg Blokhin, the 22-year-old left winger of champions Dynamo Kiev is Russia's Player of the League for the second consecutive year. Blokhin was also top scorer in the League with 20 goals.

DECEMBER 29

GENOA: Italy and Bulgaria drew 0-0 in a friendly before 45,000. Two Bulgarians were carried off and the Italian centre forward Roberto Boninsegna was cautioned.

BILBAO: Real Madrid suffered their first League defeat of the season when they lost 1-0 to Athletic Bilbao.

THE HAGUE: Second Division Heracles Almelo knocked Ajax out of the Dutch cup 4-2 after extra time.

DECEMBER 30

PARIS: Johan Cruyff was named as European Footballer of the Year for a record third time. Franz Beckenbauer came second and Kazimierz Deyna the Polish captain was third. Only one British player was among the list, Billy Bremner who finished ninth with nine votes.

DECEMBER 31

ATHENS: Greek referees started a two week strike protesting against the beating up of two Athens referees by Second Division players last week.

JANUARY 2

MUNICH: Udo Lattek the Bayern Munich trainer quit the national champions and European Cup holders. Forty-four-year-old Lattek had been expected to stay until the end of the season.

JANUARY 5

MADRID: Real Madrid beat Barcelona 1-0 to end a lean spell of five years without victory against them at home. A crowd of 120,000 watched. The only goal went in off a Barcelona defender just on half-time.

JANUARY 5

ROME: Lazio beat League leaders Juventus in the Italian League before a crowd of 90,000 and are now only a point behind them.

Robert Gadocha.

European news review—USSR...EAST GERMANY...CZECHOSLOVAKIA ...

Pivarnik wins the player award

FOOTBALLER of the year—decided by votes from both journalists and team managers — in Czechoslavakia is Jan Pivarnik, right back of the champions and league leaders Slovan Bratislava and captain of the national team.

To underline Slovan's current superiority four of the first six were Slovan players. Premysl Bicovsky (Union Teplice) was runner up with Anton Ondrus (a real find) third. Ovo Viktor still rated the number one goalkeeper was 5th—winner of the trophy in 1968, 1972 and 1973.

Gates are still relatively poor, reflecting the public opinion about the state of Czech football but every week at least one league match is screened live and in full, which must be taken into consideration.

At home newly promoted LIAZ Jablonec did best with an average of 11,670 compared to Slovan's 11,374. Slavia were Prague's most watched club with average home gates of just over 10,000 but they are kicking. Dukla Praha, even during their glory days in the early 1960's were never real crowd pullers but playing on Bohemians ground (while their own is rebuilt) this season they have been watched at home by an average of only 2,951.

Noses rubbed

Spartak Trnava are still a big draw away —the only team to top 10,000 for away gates but that probably stems from their recent years of success when they murdered everyone. Now it seems the fans want to see the men from little Trnava have their noses rubbed.

Generally it is difficult to blame Czech fans if they have lost interest for invariably the visiting teams travel away to defend. This is underlined by the fact that with the exception of Slovan (three away wins from eight games) and Cup holders Banik Ostrava (two away wins) there have been only four other away wins in First Division games in half a season.

This contrast is best illustrated by Jablonec who are unbeaten at home with seven wins and one draw while away from home they've only scored one goal against 11 in seven games!

JENA TOP

THE autumn half of the season in East Germany drew to a close with FC Carl Zeiss Jena, holders of the DFV Pokal from last season, indisputably top dogs. Zeiss owe a great deal to their veteran forwards Peter Ducke and Eberhard Vogel but their major rivals Ist FC Magdeburg suffered a nasty blow when their midfield star Jurgen Pommerenke had to undergo a cartilage operation and for the critical clash between the two clubs who have dominated the league race they were without the services of Jurgen Sparwasser.

The top of the table clash was a rough, tough hard fought affair with more than 50 free kicks (Magdeburg being marginally the worst offenders according to the referee's decisions. 15,000 saw the game live under lights in freezing cold with the pitch covered in snow and ice.

Ducke had a big hand in undermining the Magdeburg defence but it was Vogel who provided the killer punch, scoring twice in the first half to enable Zeiss to go in 2-1 up and settling the issue at 3-1 to complete a hat trick.

On the same day Dynamo Dresden (who have lost Hans-Jurgen Kreische again for another cartilage operation) beat Lokomotive Leipzig 2-1 before 18,000. Lokomotive are far from the power they were a year ago and are facing relegation. Rainer Sachse scored both goals for Dynamo, but it must have been a heartbreak job for the Lokomotive veteran 34-year-old Henning Frenzel who scored an 83rd minute equaliser only to see Sachse get the winner three minutes later.

Vorearts have still not settled in Frankfurt on the Oder and for their home game with FC Karl Marx Stadt (2-2) a mere 2,000 turned out.

A week later Magdeburg's championship hopes were given a boost by Karl Marx Stadt who recently engaged former international inside forward Dieter Erler (47 caps) as their manager. Gohr (jena) was sent off in the second half and Jena crashed 1-3 while Magdeburg at home to Dynamo Dresden won 3-0 (Wolfgang Sequin (2) and Martin Hoffman being the scorers. They start again on February 22 with only one point dividing them.

Few goals in Russia

GOAL-SCORING is still the Russians big problem while the FA stipulating minimum physical conditions (sprinting, jumping etc) before a player can be registered at the start of the season don't seem able to help. They may be the fittest—and the Soviet Union's track record in recent Olympics prove they can train athletes—but can the fellows play?

Dynamo Kiev, champions for the sixth time since they broke the all-Moscow monopoly (and Cup winners for good measure) appear to be the only side capable of matching the best on the continent. Their tally of 49 goals from 30 league games was quite the best with Oleg Blokhin again the top Division's leading scorer with 20 goals, Vladimir Onischenko hitting 11 and Victor Kolotov getting 7.

Behind Blokhin who was top scorer for the third time (he got 16 last season) were Anatolij Jonkin (Kairat Alma Ata) and Vadim Pavlenko (Dynamo Moscow) with 16 each and Vladimir Makarov of newly promoted Cernomorec Odessa on 13.

Perhaps an answer to national team boss Konstantin Beskov's problems would be to field the entire Kiev side with their manager Valeri Lobanowsky as his assistant. Seven of Kiev's regulars have been capped at different times and it begins to look as if this may be the only solution. Certainly the block selection system has done wonders for other national sides.

Kairat Alma Ata and newly promoted Nistru Kichinov go down to Division II for the new season though Kairat's marksman Jonkin will doubtless be granted a transfer even under the tightly ruled Soviet system. Meanwhile two old clubs familiar to Division I return to the top class—Lokomotive Moscow and ASK Rostov on the Don. Dynamo Minsk were pipped by Rostov on goal average.

After the championship attention was focussed on the squad preparing for the Olympic Games. In the Far East they beat Thailand three times—1-0, 2-0 7-0 and and also overcame a Singapore XI 1-0 and 3-0 but lost to Czechoslovakias full team, also on tour despite being depleted by 0-1.

FC AMSTERDAM SURPRISE MANY

by Chris Rhys

ONE OF the surprise teams in the draw for the quarter finals of the 1974-5 E.U.F.A. Cup are F.C. Amsterdam. In the first round they beat Hibernians, Malta, 12-0 on aggregate, then caused a major upset by beating Inter Milan 2-1 at the San Siro Stadium and drawing 0-0 at home. Fortuna Dusseldorf were the next victims, beaten 3-0 in Amsterdam and 2-1 on their own ground, leaving Amsterdam to join the last eight, none of which have won the E.U.F.A. Cup before.

Before the World Cup, people were asking: Who is Jan Jongbloed? The same can now be said of F.C. Amsterdam, the Dutch World Cup goalkeeper's team. They are, in only their third season of existence, being the amalgamation of the Dutch league champions of 1963-4, D.W.S., and Blauw-Wit, the Division Two side. In their first season 1972-3, the new F.C. Amsterdam finished tenth in the Dutch league, and last season were fifth behind Feyenoord, F.C. Twente, Ajax, and P.S.V. Eindhoven as P.S.V. won the Dutch Cup 6-0 v N.A.C. Breda, Amsterdam qualified for this season's E.U.F.A. Cup.

Four sides

Two major problems faced F.C. Amsterdam at their inception. One was the financial difficulties of the running costs of their ground, the Olympic Stadium, site of the 1928 Olympics, now in need of modernization since the days when Paavo Nurmi was winning gold medals. Gates tend to average between 5,000—10,000 unless the top four sides are the visitors when attendances reach 40,000 in the 65,000 capacity stadium.

For the 1974-5 season the amateur side De Volevijckers also merged with F.C. Amsterdam, so that with only two major clubs in the city, council aid would be of great assistance. As it is though, the changing facilities, social centre, and physiotherapy unit are being completely renovated to meet present requirements the result of a good run in Europe. This is also the ground where Ajax, whose stadium holds only 28,500, play their major domestic and European games.

The second difficulty was the fusion of two, and now for this season, three clubs into one with no immediate finances. No fewer than 13 players left at the end of the 1973-4 season to negotiate better contracts with other clubs. The man entrusted with this task is trainer-coach Pim Van der Meent, who as a player was with Holland Sport from 1956-61. He then moved to D.O.S. (now F.C.) Utrecht in the Premier Division for 1961-2 and then to N.E.C. Nijmegen, with whom he played in 1962-3 season in Division Two, in 1963-4 in Division One and in 1964-5 with the elite in the Dutch Premier League. With the co-ordinator Tony Bruins slot and Assistant Trainer Mr Pijlman, Mr Van der Meent has done a fine job, not only with the first team, but is building up a fine youth system for the future.

Unbroken

The club has three full internationals and four Under-23 Internationals around which the side is built. The most well known is current national goalkeeper Jan Jongbloed, who is 34. Until he played against Argentina just before the World Cup to start an unbroken run of 13 internationals he had previously played for two minutes as a substitute in 1962 against Denmark in Copenhagen.

He was previously with D.W.S. as was the 17 times capped Fritz Flinkevleugel, who plays in the back four, and is a year older than Jowgbloed. The third international is midfield player Chris Dekker (29) one cap v Austria just before the World Cup, and a member of the Dutch World Cup squad of 40. Under 23 Internationals are midfield man Jaap Visser (24) who came through the D.W.S. Youth Team and the three strikers Gerard Van der Lem (22), Theo Husers (24), who came from Ajax, and Nico Jansen (22) currently one of the hottest prospects in Dutch football, and Amsterdam's leading scorer in 1973-4 with 19 goals.

Completing the first team squad are defenders Tjeerd Koopman (27) ex-D.W.S., Rob Bianchi (26), Theo Cornwall (28) all former D.W.S. players, and one of the most remarkable characters in Dutch soccer, the ex-Blauw-Wit sweeper, Jan Fransz, who is still regarded as one of the top four in his position in the country, and who will be 38 in May. It must be some time since the combined ages of three of a top European club added up to 116 years.

In midfield Abe Van der Ban, Formerly with Az 67 Alkmaar and Tom Dekker (21) from the same club, Leen Van der Merkt (27) from F.C. Utrecht, Klaas Karte (26) an ex-Amateur from Uithoorn, compete with Visser. Van der Ban has recently returned from a serious operation.

The three young strikers Husers, Jansen, and Van der Lem played together practically all last season with Heini Otto (20) as leading reserve, and a scorer v Hibs Malta.

The youth scheme has produced several promising players — ex-amateur internationals 18 times capped Gerard Boon (21) from E.D.O. Haarlem and 14 times capped Piet Prangler (20) whilst several juniors have had 16-18 international and E.U.F.A. representative honours, amongst them are Henk Wisman (17) ex-Ajax, Cor Swerissen (18), Henk Olk (18), so that the future looks bright.

Frits Flinkevleugel of FC Amsterdam.

When D.W.S. won the league in 1963-4 Jongbloed, Fritz Flinkevleugel and a young Rob Bianchi played in the 1964-5 European Cup, D.W.S. beating Fersnbache 3-2 on aggregate, Lyn Oslo 8-1 (Jack Taylor refereed the 1st leg) before in the quarter finals they lost 1-2 to Vasas Gyor of Hungary.

About this time Theo Cornwall began his career. D.W.S. played in the Fairs Cup in 1966-7 losing 8-2 on aggregate to Leeds in the 1st Round and in 1968-9 D.W.S. beat Chelsea on the toss of the coin after two 0-0 draws before losing to Glasgow Rangers 4-1 on aggregate. Of this year's 19 goals to two EUFA Cup matches, Jansen has scored 7, Husers 5, Karte 2, Otto, Chris Dekker, Koopman, Kreigler O.G. and Fransz (in his 1st European Tie aged 37!) one each.

Slightly disconcerting this season has been the club's League form. Only two wins (both away) seven draws and seven defeats, though five by the odd goal, have placed Amsterdam towards the wrong end of the League.

A glance at the fortunes of Beroe Stara Zagara of Bulgaria, who in 1973-4 in the European Cup Winners Cup were narrowly beaten in the quarter-finals of the tournament by the eventual winners F.C. Magdeburg; had the leading scorer in Bulgaria in Petkov with 20 goals, a final goal difference of 50 for, 46 against and yet were relegated at the end of their season is an example.

Unpleasant trend

says Ken Goldman

IT WOULD seem that with the recent playing of the England-Portugal International match a new, unpleasant, even sinister tradition has become entrenched amongst the oft-criticised British football supporters.

I refer specifically to the booing of the opposing Country's team during the playing of their National Anthem. What might have appeared to be a joke albeit sickly and in poor taste initiated when England played Poland in the World Cup in 1973 at Wembley, where tension was highly oppresive, has now become disgracefully commonplace so that Portugal, who have been virtually England's oldest trading partners, suffered the same sad indignity lately.

Following on from Tottenham Hotspur's supporters riots in Rotterdam and Manchester United's animals beastiality in Belgium, the once proud British reputation for sportsmanship is in tatters and shreds while its manners have reached their nadir.

Passive

One has clearly seen it coming for a long time for football crowds in Britain have long since put aside old passive combat songs in support of their own team, in favour of others which heap abuse and insult on their opponents. In other words famous cheering songs such as Spurs's Glory Tottenham Hotspur, the Pompey Chimes, Newcastle's Blaydon Races, West Ham's Blowing Bubbles, Glasgow Rangers's we will follow Rangers and several teams' versions of when the reds, blues or whites go marching in, have been exchanged for such chants beginning "We hate Nottingham Forest, we hate Liverpool too" or the naming of the opposition followed by an expletive, or the mocking of rival supporters by shouts of "where are you" or "it's all gone quiet over there". Perhaps the most distasteful and dangerous of these war cries is the chant of "we want a riot" which on only too frequent occasions has either occurred or just been narrowly averted.

Exacted

Our cyclopsian chauvenism has not gone unnoticed abroad and it was a sorry fact that in the 1974 World Cup in Germany retribution was exacted with the booing of the Scotland team during the playing on their behalf of the British National Anthem.

If there has been a bright star in all this pitiful darkness it has shone over Anfield where Liverpool supporters have been responsible for a half dozen or more witty or endearing songs and chants in favour of their side, quite apart from their own self-congratulatory "we're the best supporters in the land". Likewise the Anfielders' reputation for fair dealing with others is now widespread and is such that even the ironical God Save Our Team sung to the tune of the National Anthem can receive some sympathy.

Thus in this sorry world torn between economic and political strife it would be pleasant, to use only a neutral expression rather than an emotive one, if sport could point the way to greater understanding and harmony. Perhaps if we tried to like the opposition more, to admire their good points and to criticise their bad ones fairly the standard of British football, quite apart from its manners, might start to rise again.

Laughed

I say this because I believe these matters can be related. Football players succeed and blossom in an atmosphere of confidence and to be laughed at by one's own supporters and jeered by opposition fans is not the most conducive way of inspiring confidence to play tricks with the ball, or take on the other team's players to try to outrun or outsmart them.

In the end though it all comes down to advocating that where ignorance is bliss it is folly to capsize and let the boat of honour and sportsmanship sink without trace into the murky waters of hatred ridicule and contempt.

I believe that you know the spectators, I was amazed at the reaction, not amazed, I was delighted at the reaction I got from Tottenham people. You know, I got literally a round of applause when I walked into the Tottenham ground on Wednesday and it was superb, it was superb because of course I got a lot of sympathy when I was sacked at Leeds.

Barry: But hasn't Brian Clough the pundit, the celebrity got in the way of Brian Clough the football manager.

Brian: No I would say it's you know it's intertwined you know. It's inevitable if I'm going to be in football and obviously I'm going to talk about the game etc etc and you of course and the media as you describe it will decide if what I say is worth listening to and it's about time people, and I think they will start now because, as I say, a lot more people have sympathy for me now having been sacked at Leeds, it's about time people started listening to what I was saying instead of this image that you perhaps might have mentioned. Let's listen. I will stop shouting, I will stop wagging my finger, I will stop inciting people and let's all listen because I just might have a contribution to make.

Barry: I think that's the point that I'm making. The contribution that you have to make has slowly but surely got lost.

Brian: Well it's inevitable because perhaps it's been overworked.

● *Continued from page 7*

Barry: Who's fault's that Brian.

Brian: That is perhaps my fault because I'm the one who says yes or no to interviews and to journalists etc etc . . .

Barry: And decide what you're going to say.

Brian: Of course, of course . . .

Barry: Because we don't put words into your mouth.

Brian: No, but you ask questions you wouldn't dare ask anybody else.

Barry: That's not true actually.

Brian: Well I suggest you get along to the England team manager and ask him some crackers (Barry: I have) because I would love to. Did you get an answer?

Barry: You've probably made more money out of football than most managers make in a whole career, is that success?

Brian: Oh no, finance is never a success totally and I'll tell you what as well, when you're depressed and out of work and bitterly disappointed, a little bit cynical, money doesn't mean that much, certainly doesn't mean to me.

Barry: Were you a little bit cynical about it then?

Brian: Oh I was on the verge of being a cynic you know after, after a few events that, God forbid, never turn me into a cynic about life or about football. Never turn me into a sour-puss, never turn me into somebody who hates the game. I was on the verge of a few of these things because you get battered down you know and even I get down on the floor occasionally.

Barry: So are you suggesting that in your three months out of the game you've found the real Brian Clough once again.

Brian: I've rehabilitated myself a little bit, I've surrounded myself with beautiful, normal, nice people, people that don't get a lot of money, they see a lot of things apart from the nasty side of life and I'm in fabulous nick.

Barry: Do you accept that you've got something to prove?

Brian: I've got to prove obviously that I can manage a football club once again and I've got to prove that I can have success once again but no more than any other manager.

Barry: Because your standards are different aren't they!

Brian: Yes, my standards are different because I impose the standards on myself. I created the standards and people expect you to stand up to them.

Barry: And is this the last chance?

Brian: For what?

Barry: For somebody as you put it . . .

Brian: Oh no not at all, somebody's done that before and you know and the good keep getting off their feet . . .

European Champions

GROUP ONE

30.10.74 England 3, Czechoslovakia 0
20.11.74 England 0, Portugal 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Portugal	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.2.75 Cyprus v England
16.4.75 England v Cyprus
20.4.75 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus
30.4.75 Czechoslovakia v Portugal
8.6.75 Cyprus v Portugal
29.10.76 Czechoslavakia v England
12.11.75 Portugal v Czechoslovakia
19.11.75 Portugal v England
23.11.75 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia
3.12.75 Portugal v Cyprus

GROUP TWO

4.9.74 Austria 2, Wales 1
13.10.74 Luxembourg 2, Hungary 4
30.10.74 Wales 2, Hungary 0
20.11.74 Wales 5, Luxembourg 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	2	0	1	8	2	4
Austria	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Hungary	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	2	9	0

16.3.75 Luxembourg v Austria
2.4.75 Austria v Hungary
16.4.75 Hungary v Wales
1.5.75 Luxembourg v Wales
24.9.75 Hungary v Austria
15.10.75 Austria v Luxembourg
19.10.75 Hungary v Luxembourg
19.11.75 Wales v Austria

GROUP THREE

4.9.74 Norway 2, Northern Ireland 1
30.10.74 Yugoslavia 3, Norway 1
30.10.74 Sweden 0, Northern Ireland 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Northern Ireland	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Norway	2	1	0	1	3	4	2
Sweden	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

16.3.75 Northern Ireland v Yugoslavia
4.6.75 Sweden v Yugoslavia
9.6.75 Norway v Yugoslavia
30.6.75 Sweden v Norway
13.8.75 Norway v Sweden
3.9.75 Northern Ireland v Sweden
15.10.75 Yugoslavia v Sweden
29.10.75 Northern Ireland v Norway
19.11.75 Yugoslavia v Northern Ireland

GROUP FOUR

25.9.74 Denmark 1, Spain 2
13.10.74 Denmark 0, Rumania 0
20.11.74 Scotland 1, Spain 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Rumania	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Denmark	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Scotland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

5.2.75 Spain v Scotland
17.4.75 Spain v Rumania
11.5.75 Rumania v Denmark
1.6.75 Rumania v Scotland
3.9.75 Denmark v Scotland
12.10.75 Spain v Denmark
29.10.75 Scotland v Denmark
16.11.75 Rumania v Spain
17.12.75 Scotland v Rumania

GROUP FIVE

1.9.74 Finland 1, Poland 2
25.9.74 Finland 1, Holland 3
9.10.74 Poland 3, Finland 0
20.11.74 Holland 3, Italy 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	2	2	0	0	6	2	4
Poland	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Italy	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Finland	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

19.4.75 Italy v Poland
5.6.75 Finland v Italy
20.8.75 Holland v Finland
10.9.75 Poland v Holland
27.9.75 Italy v Finland
15.10.75 Holland v Poland
25.10.75 Poland v Italy
22.11.75 Italy v Holland

GROUP SIX

30.10.74 Eire 3, USSR 0
20.11.74 Turkey 1, Eire 1
1.12.74 Turkey 2, Switzerland 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eire	2	1	1	0	4	1	3
Turkey	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Switzerland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
USSR	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

2.4.75 USSR v Turkey
30.4.75 Switzerland v Turkey
11.5.75 Eire v Switzerland
18.5.75 USSR v Eire
21.5.75 Switzerland v Eire
12.10.75 Switzerland v USSR
29.10.75 Eire v Turkey
12.11.75 USSR v Switzerland
23.11.75 Turkey v USSR

GROUP SEVEN

8.9.74 Iceland 0, Belgium 2
12.10.74 East Germany 1, Iceland 1
12.10.74 Belgium 2, France 1
16.11.74 France 2, East Germany 2
7.12.74 East Germany 0, Belgium 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
East Germany	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
France	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Iceland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

25.5.75 Iceland v France
5.6.75 Iceland v East Germany
3.9.75 France v Iceland
6.9.75 Belgium v Iceland
27.9.75 Belgium v East Germany
11.10.75 East Germany v France
15.11.75 France v Belgium

GROUP EIGHT

13.10.74 Bulgaria 3, Greece 3
20.11.74 Greece 2, West Germany 2
18.12.74 Greece 2, Bulgaria 1
29.12.74 Malta 0, West Germany 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	3	1	2	0	7	6	4
West Germany	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Bulgaria	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

23.2.75 Malta v Greece
27.4.75 Bulgaria v West Germany
4.6.75 Greece v Malta
11.6.75 Bulgaria v Malta
11.10.75 West Germany v Greece
19.11.75 West Germany v Bulgaria
21.12.75 Malta v Bulgaria
28.2.76 West Germany v Malta

COLOMBIA

"Hexagonal"

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Cali	10	5	3	2	12	10	13
Atletico Nacional	10	3	5	2	18	15	11
Deportivo Pereira	10	2	6	2	19	16	10
Millonarios	10	3	3	4	13	14	9
Atletico Junior	10	3	3	4	19	23	9
America	10	2	4	4	15	18	8

Opening tournament

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Nacional (Medellin)	26	15	7	4	38	22	37
Deportivo Cali	26	14	9	3	38	19	37
Millonarios (Bogota)	26	15	3	8	38	21	33
Atletico Junior (Barranquilla)	26	12	9	5	27	18	33
Independiente Santa Fe (Bogota)	26	11	8	7	38	33	30
Deportivo Independiente Medellin	26	11	8	7	32	22	30
America (Cali)	26	9	11	6	27	24	29
Cucuta Deportivo	26	6	10	10	19	26	22
Cristal Caldas (Manizales)	26	8	5	13	31	41	21
Atletico Quindio (Armenia)	26	6	9	11	27	35	21
Atletico Bucaramanga	26	5	11	10	20	35	21
Deportivo Pereira	26	7	5	14	21	28	19
Deportiva Union Magdalena (Santa Marta)	26	5	7	14	18	34	17
Deportivo Tolima (Ibague)	26	1	12	13	18	34	14

"Finalisation"

Group "A"	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Cali	21	11	8	2	29	13	30
America	21	10	7	4	22	16	27
Millonarios	21	10	6	5	26	14	26
Independiente Santa Fe	21	10	4	7	27	21	24
Atletico Nacional	21	8	8	5	28	16	24
Atletico Junior	21	8	6	7	26	24	22
Deportivo Independiente Medellin	21	5	8	8	23	29	18

Group "B"	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Pereira	21	10	5	6	21	16	25
Atletico Quindio	21	9	3	9	30	27	21
Deportivo Tolima	21	9	3	9	26	29	21
Atletico Bucaramanga	21	6	6	9	22	23	18
Cucuta	21	5	7	9	23	31	17
Cristal Caldas	21	4	4	13	16	36	12
Union Magdalena	21	2	3	14	16	40	9

LEAGUE TABLES

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich	**25**	**14**	**2**	**9**	**34**	**19**	**30**
Middlesbrough	25	11	8	6	37	28	30
Liverpool	23	12	5	6	34	20	29
Everton	24	8	13	3	33	25	29
Stoke	25	11	7	7	39	33	29
West Ham	25	10	8	7	42	33	28
Burnley	25	11	6	8	45	40	28
Man. City	25	11	6	8	31	33	28
Derby	24	10	7	2	38	33	27
Newcastle	23	10	6	7	33	31	26
Leeds	25	10	5	10	35	30	25
Wolves	24	8	9	7	32	30	25
Q.P.R.	25	10	5	10	32	33	25
Sheffield United	24	9	6	9	31	36	24
Coventry	25	7	9	9	33	41	23
Birmingham	25	9	4	12	35	39	22
Tottenham	25	7	7	11	30	35	21
Chelsea	24	6	9	9	26	41	21
Arsenal	24	7	6	11	28	30	20
Carlisle	25	7	3	15	25	33	17
Leicester	24	5	6	13	22	37	16
Luton	24	4	7	13	22	37	15

hip and league tables

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse	12	8	2	2	34	12	18
Avenir	12	8	2	2	27	15	18
Union	12	5	4	3	21	18	14
Aris	12	5	3	4	25	18	13
Rumelingen	12	4	5	3	20	14	13
Alliance	12	3	6	3	17	15	12
Etzella	12	5	2	5	18	16	12
Red Boys	12	4	3	5	19	22	11
RS Marl Belat	12	2	5	5	9	23	9
Progres	12	3	2	7	13	21	8
Spora	12	3	2	7	16	27	8
Fola	12	3	2	7	19	37	8

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RWD Molenbeek	19	12	7	0	49	18	31
Anderlecht	19	9	8	2	35	13	26
Antwerp	19	10	5	4	33	19	25
Beerschot	19	10	4	5	30	17	24
Standard	19	10	4	5	32	19	24
FC Bruges	19	9	6	4	36	19	24
CS Bruges	19	7	8	4	23	21	22
Lierse	19	8	3	8	26	28	19
Lokeren	19	7	5	7	27	32	19
SC Charleroi	19	6	6	7	21	30	18
Ostende	19	5	8	6	34	35	18
Malinois	19	5	8	6	12	16	18
Ol. Montignies	19	5	8	6	20	31	18
Beveren-Waas	19	4	8	7	16	19	16
Berchem	19	3	10	6	14	18	16
Waregem	19	4	7	8	17	23	15
Liege	19	4	6	9	17	24	14
Beringen	19	4	6	9	18	29	14
Diest	19	2	6	11	11	37	10
Winterslag	19	1	7	11	16	39	9

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	20	16	2	2	57	18	34
Celtic	20	16	2	2	54	17	34
Hibernian	20	11	6	3	36	18	28
Dundee Utd	20	9	6	5	47	25	24
Aberdeen	19	9	4	6	35	24	22
Dundee	20	8	4	8	20	23	20
Dunfermline	19	6	7	6	32	32	19
Hearts	20	5	9	6	29	37	19
Airdrie	20	7	4	9	23	32	18
Ayr Utd	19	7	4	8	27	39	18
St Johnstone	20	5	6	9	23	30	16
Motherwell	20	7	2	11	26	35	16
Kilmarnock	19	4	8	7	30	43	16
Morton	20	5	6	9	23	39	16
Clyde	19	5	5	9	28	38	15
Partick	20	6	3	11	29	43	15
Dumbarton	19	4	5	10	23	30	13
Arbroath	20	4	3	13	18	37	11

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	15	11	3	1	21	5	25
Fenerbahce	14	7	6	1	29	12	20
Besiktas	15	7	5	3	13	9	19
Adana	14	6	5	3	18	11	17
Ankaragucu	14	5	7	2	15	12	17
Boluspor	15	5	7	3	13	11	17
Trabzonspor	15	5	6	4	10	7	16
Eskisehirspor	14	4	6	4	12	11	14
Adanspor	15	4	7	4	16	11	15
Altay	15	2	8	5	12	17	12
Samsunspor	15	3	5	7	11	16	11
Zonguldakspor	13	5	3	7	6	16	11
Goztepe	15	1	9	5	10	22	11
Bursaspor	13	2	6	5	10	14	10
Giresunspor	15	2	6	7	15	23	10
Kayserispor	15	2	5	8	6	20	9

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	16	11	4	1	31	12	26
Benfica	16	10	5	1	30	7	25
Vit. Guimaraes	16	10	3	3	38	21	23
Sporting	16	8	6	2	29	11	22
Farense	16	9	2	5	32	23	20
Boavista	16	7	5	4	24	16	19
Leixoes	16	4	7	5	14	14	15
CUF Barreiro	16	5	5	6	19	20	15
Belenenses	16	6	3	7	25	27	15
Vit. Setubal	16	5	3	8	26	24	13
Uniao Tomar	16	5	2	9	18	29	12
Atletico	16	4	4	8	20	46	12
Olhanense	16	4	3	9	27	39	11
Espinho	16	3	4	9	15	29	10
Oriental	16	2	6	8	10	26	10
Academico	16	3	2	11	13	27	8

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	12	8	2	2	20	7	18
Lazio	12	7	3	2	16	9	17
Torino	12	5	6	1	15	9	16
Milan	12	4	6	2	10	5	14
Napoli	12	3	9	1	15	10	14
Roma	12	6	2	4	9	5	14
Inter-Milan	12	3	7	2	10	8	13
Fiorentina	12	4	5	3	11	9	13
Bologna	12	4	4	4	12	14	12
Varese	12	2	5	5	9	12	9
Ternana	12	2	5	5	8	11	9
Vicenza	12	3	3	6	6	10	9
Sampdoria	12	1	7	4	8	14	9
Cesena	12	2	5	5	6	12	9
Cagliari	12	3	3	6	8	17	9
Ascoli	12	2	3	7	5	16	7

● *Continued overleaf*

Oritz (San Lorenzo) heads in with team mate Scotta next to him while Talleres goalkeeper Quiroga (No. 1) is out of his goal during an Argentine national championship final round game which San Lorenzo won 2-1.

Same for Tourino: "I'm happy enough, nothing to worry about. They asked me the dates of birth of my parents. And me, of course. Also, where I had applied for all my papers, I said: In the consulate in Buenos Aires and that was that. My parents both came from Coruna."

But Roberto? "I've nothing to tell you."

The following Sunday Roberto played for Madrid in Chamartin against San Sebastian in a 1-1 draw (Santillana and Satrustegui getting the goals, Breitner missing a spot kick)but afterwards all hell was let loose. The centre of attention was San Sebastian vice-president Angel Imaz, announcing that his club were requesting the FEF to rule Roberto "out of order" and give them both points.

Imaz also made it clear that the incriminating document they had dug up had been laid with the league *the day before the match*. "We have proof that Roberto's documentation is false," said Imaz. "He is not the son of Spanish parents and thus cannot be Spanish. We intend to protest against any players who don't have a true Spanish background. It's not a question of having anything against Madrid or Barcelona. We are simply denouncing the illegal. We wouldn't object if the league said that a team could field 11 foreigners. But the rules state only two and we have proof that today Madrid played with three" (Adding Roberto to Netzer and Breitner).

● *Continued from page 33*

The proof turned out to be a Ministry of Justice declaration made out on June 19, 1973, stating that the birth certificates of Roberto, Anzarda and Vilanova had all been rejected because of irregularities at the Argentinian end.

Two questions immediately sprung to mind—and I have yet to find anyone who will provide me with a satisfactory reply:

Why was this document not publicised at the time?

Why the delay in bringing it to the fore?

Bilbao added fuel to the fire by demanding that the league cancel the licences of the three principals and earned this predictable retort from Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid's president, now recovered from illness: "We signed the player according to the rules. *We were told* he was Spanish—and anyway, he had already played for the national team."

The italics are mine, but those with good memories may feel they have heard similar sentiments from Madrid before—in 1970 in fact when a similar storm broke over a group of Paraguayans who had been allowed into the league on false pretences. Among them was Sebastian Fleitas, imported by Malaga, but who had joined Madrid by the time the deception was revealed. Madrid pleaded ignorance then, and Fleitas was allowed to play out his contract.

Betis took the same line over Anzarda, and, funnily enough, if anyone catches the backlash here it will be Madrid for Betis were not slow to point out that they only signed Anzarda 18 months ago from Madrid, who had brought him from River Plate in 1971!

Vilanova was adamant that he had been accepted four years ago—and even allowed no-one to forget that on a couple of occasions he had been called into the under-23 squad.

The league executive committee met on December 18 and sadly,even incredibly if you aren't a cynic, ruled that everything was in order; that the San Sebastian/Bilbao complaint fell down because it did not specify *why* the documents were false.

More, it was made pretty plain that though Bilbao and San Sebastian were at liberty to pursue the matter in the civil courts, the league would be satisfied with nothing less than a successful challenge to the Argentinian documents *in Argentina*.

And that was that. No hint of an investigation; no hint of consultation with the FEF or the Ministry of Sport. It was all made clear that the league wished to hear nothing more.

Bilbao and San Sebastian still want to press on, and a joint approach to the FEF is now in the offing. Whether it will meet with any more success of course is extremely doubtful.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ethnikos	**12**	**8**	**4**	**0**	**22**	**7**	**20**
AEK Athens	12	7	5	0	19	4	19
Olympiakos Piraeus	12	8	3	1	24	9	19
Paok Salonika	12	7	3	2	28	11	17
Panathinaikos	12	5	5	2	19	12	15
Panachaiki	12	5	4	3	14	8	14
Iannina	12	5	3	4	17	14	13
Aris	12	5	2	5	15	16	12
Panionios	12	4	4	4	13	15	12
Kastoria	12	4	4	4	17	23	12
Panseraikos	12	3	5	4	8	11	11
Iraklis	12	2	5	5	14	18	9
Atromitos	12	2	5	5	8	12	9
Larissa	12	2	4	6	12	18	8
Olympiakos Volos	12	3	2	7	11	22	8
Kavala	12	2	3	7	7	19	7
Kalamata	12	2	3	7	8	27	7
Aigaleo	12	2	0	10	9	19	4

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	**16**	**13**	**2**	**1**	**58**	**14**	**28**
PSV Eindhoven	15	11	4	0	43	14	26
Ajax	15	10	2	3	36	15	22
Twente	15	8	3	4	26	14	19
AZ 67	16	6	6	4	18	11	18
Sparta	16	5	8	3	21	15	18
Roda JC	16	6	4	6	23	28	16
Den Haag	16	4	7	5	18	20	15
Utrecht	16	6	3	7	26	29	15
Excelsior	16	4	7	5	18	21	15
Telstar	16	4	7	5	16	24	15
Go Ahead	16	5	3	8	15	26	13
De Graafschap	15	5	3	7	13	25	13
MVV Maastricht	16	4	4	8	20	30	12
Wageningen	16	3	6	7	17	33	12
Amsterdam	16	2	7	7	15	22	11
NAC Breda	16	2	5	9	16	33	9
Haarlem	16	1	5	10	13	38	7

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	**15**	**9**	**5**	**1**	**31**	**16**	**23**
Espanol	15	8	3	4	20	18	19
Barcelona	15	8	2	5	33	21	18
Real Zaragoza	15	7	3	5	25	18	17
Betis	15	7	3	5	18	14	17
Granada	15	5	6	4	19	19	16
Elche	15	7	2	6	18	23	16
Atl. Madrid	15	4	7	4	19	14	15
Gijon	15	5	5	5	20	17	15
Real Sociedad	15	4	7	4	17	19	15
Valencia	15	5	4	6	20	20	14
Hercules	15	4	5	6	16	19	13
At. Bilbao	15	5	3	7	16	19	13
Celta Vigo	15	4	5	6	15	20	13
Salamanca	15	3	6	6	13	16	12
Las Palmas	15	3	6	6	17	24	12
Malaga	15	5	1	9	9	18	11
Murcia	15	3	5	7	16	27	11

UEFA CUP

(Third round second leg)

Dynamo Dresden 2 (Dorner, Hafner)
Hamburg 2 (Bertl 2)
Real Zaragoza 2 (Violeta, Galdos)
Moenchengladbach 4 (Simonsen, Heynckes 2, Stielike)
Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Seel)
Amsterdam 2 (Husers, Jansen)
Ajax 2 (Blankenburg, Gerrie Muhren)
Juventus 1 (Damiani pen.)
Twente 5 (Zuidema 3, Notten 2)
Dukla Prague 0
Banik Ostrava 1 (Slany)
Napoli 1 (Ferradini)
Velez Mostar 4 (Bajevic, pen., Pecelj, Vladic, Primorac pen.)
Derby County 1 (Hector)
FC Cologne 5 (Overath, Lohr, Muller, Glowacz, Flohe)
Partizan Belgrade 1 (Pavlovic)

November 7

Chile (0) 0
Argentina (0) 2 (Lopez, Ferrero)

(Ditthorn Cup, 1st leg)

Chile: Neff, Machuca, Herrera, Gonzalez, Pinochet, Ramirez, Mendez, Gaete (Gamboa, Veliz), Araneda (Trujillo), Ahumada, Pinto.
Argentina: Sanchez, Pernia, Paolino, Regel, Carrascosa, Trobbiani, Russo (Saccardi), Cordero (Lopez), Bertoni, Bochini, Ferrero.
Referee: A. Ducatelli (Argentina)

November 20

Argentina (1) 1 (Galletti pen.)
Chile (1) 1 (Mendez)

(Ditthorn Cup, 2nd leg)

Argentina: Sanchez, Pernia, Paolino, Regel Carrascosa, Trobbiani, Saccardi (Calvan), Potente, Salletti (Mouzo), Bochini, Ferrero.
Chile: Nef, Galindo, Herrera, Gonzalez, Pinochet, Mendez (Valdez), Inostrosa, Ramirez, Trujillo (Pisto), Ahumada, Veliz.
Referee: L. Pestarino (Argentina)

INTER - AMERICAN CUP (South American v Central, North American and Caribbean champions)

November 23 (1st leg)

Municipal (Guatemala) (0) 0
Independiente (Argentina) (1) 1 (Bochini)

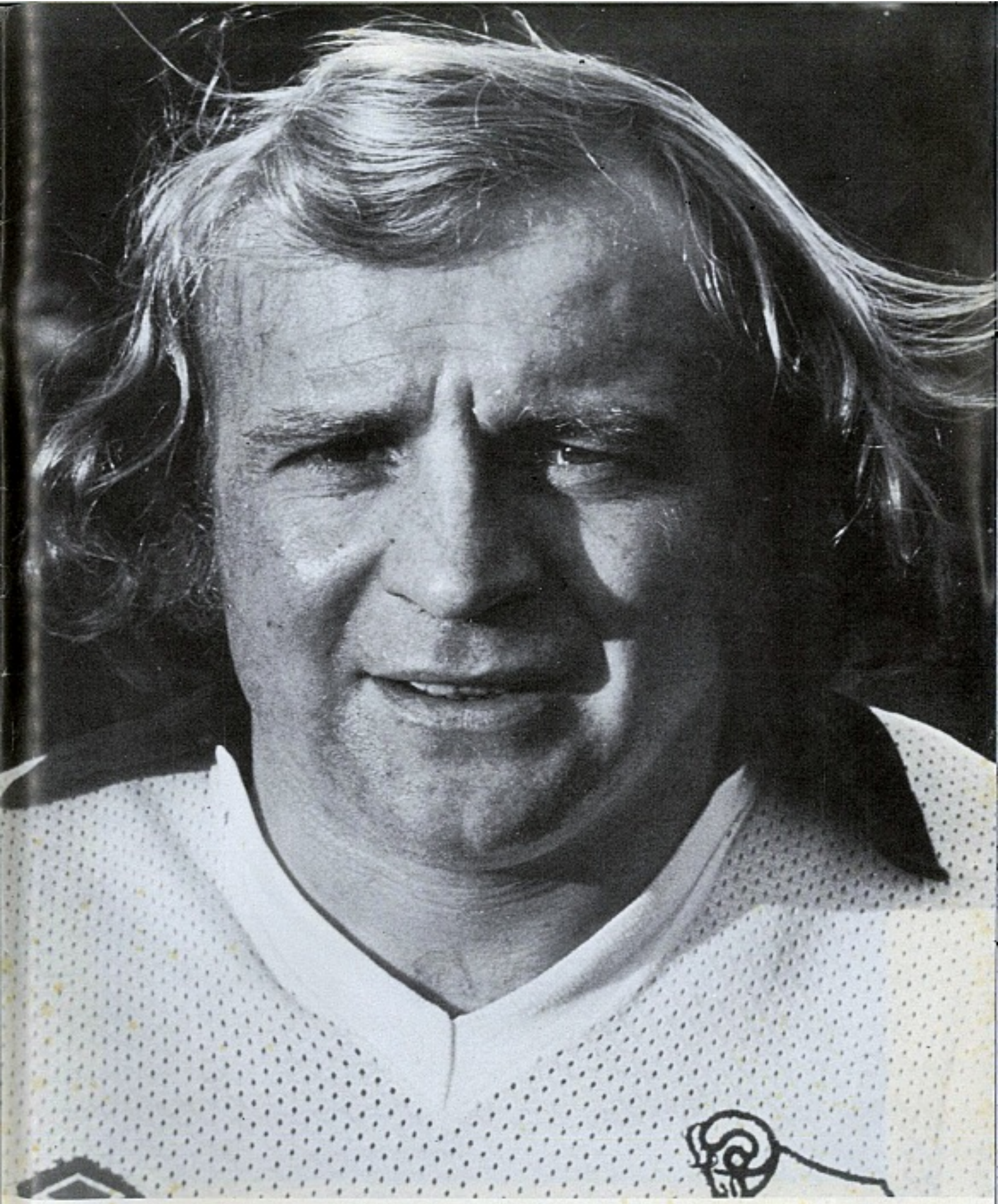
Municipal: Fernandez, Lopez Oliva, C. Monterroso, Lijon, Melgar (Giron), Perez, D. Monterroso, Benitez, Mitrovich (Carias), Cobish, Anderson.
Independiente: Gay, Commino, Lopez, Sa, Pavoni, Galvan (Semenewicz), Raimondo, Saggiorato, Balbuena, Bochini, Bertoni.
Referee: C. Velasquez (Colombia)

November 26 (2nd leg)

Municipal (Guatemala) (0) 1 (Mitrovich)
Independiente (Argentina) (0) 0

Municipal: Fernandez, Lopez Oliva, C. Monterroso, Lijon, Melgar, Perez, B. Monterroso, Anderson, Benitez, Mitrovich, Carias.
Independiente: Gay, Commino, Lopez, Sa, Pavoni, Galvan, Raimondo, Saggiorato, Balbuena, Bochini, Bertoni.
Referee: M. Canesa, (Colombia)

Aggregate 1-1—INDEPENDIENTE won on post match penalties 4-2. Scorers—Independiente: Pavoni, Giribet, Bochini, Bertoni. Municipal: Cobian, Mitrovich (Both matches played in Guatemala).



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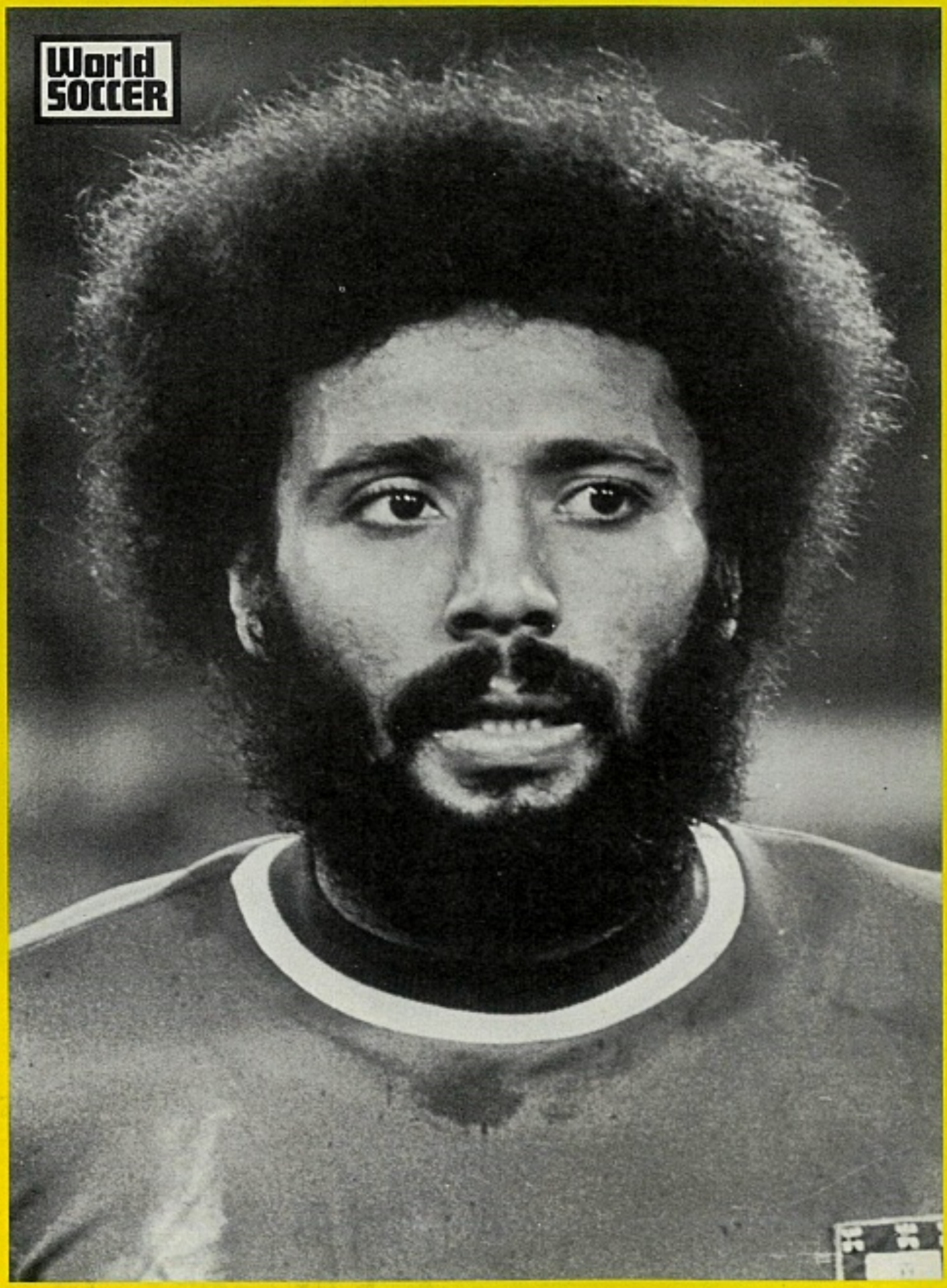

ALHINHO Portugal